FRONTISPIECE.

The HISTORY OF *FORTUNATUS* AND HIS LUCKY PURSE.

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THE HISTORY OF FORTUNATUS AND HIS TWO SONS;

CONTAINING

An Account of his noble Birth, remarkable Travels, and ſtrange Adventures in many Kingdoms; how he obtained a PURSE which ſupplied him with a Continuance of Money, alſo a HAT by which he could be conveyed in an Inſtant to any Place where he wiſhed to be; alſo his Death, at which he bequeathed his PURSE and WISHING HAT to his two Sons; with his ſumptuous Funeral, &c.

Likewiſe the Travels and remarkable Actions of his two Sons, with their untimely Deaths and Burials.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GREEK.

THE SIXTH EDITION.

LONDON:

Printed by T. SABINE, No. 81, SHOE LANE, FLEET STREET.

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AND HIS
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Likewise the Travels and remarkable Actions of his two Sons, with their Journey to Persia and Babylon.

PRINTED AT THE SIGN OF THE BOOK.

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PREFACE.

AS in the writings of fabulous poets and witty apothegms of Æsop, Diogenes, and such like pleasant conceited philosophers, are to be found many pithy and wise lessons for the state of man's life, as well as in the severe precepts of the sage stoics; so in this tragical history (though it be with poetical imaginations) is to be noted by the discreet reader, sufficient matter concerning most estates to bring the mind in remembrance of the fickleness of fortune, the reward of virtue, the punishment of vice, and the end of folly. Also in this history is often occasion taken partly to describe the names, situations, and commodities of the chief countries, merchants, kingdoms, and cities of the earth, which, to the valiant mind, bringeth no small delight.

These few causes considered, I doubt not but this history shall seem, to men of good judgment, more worthy of the printer's trouble than many vain pamphlets, ballads, and songs, tending only to the artificial cloaking of vice, and muzzling of amorous heads therein. And forasmuch as by consideration and perusing thereof, I found much childish and super-

flous inventions, intermingled also with some sparks of profane superstition, (according to the manner of penning used in that barbarous age) which might seem odious to the godly, and loathsome to the learned; the matter and substance of the history being, notwithstanding, pleasant and delightful to read, I thought it most convenient by rejecting what was unseemly, rather to collect an abstract of the substance thereof in a plain and English phrase, than to have respect to the literal translation; which if I have not accomplished so precisely as perhaps some of our English rhetoricians would have done, I crave pardon for my offence, and give them leave to mend what is amiss; not doubting but the courteous reader will rather accept hereof, with the like affection as it is offered, rather than disdain my ability to offer it so perfect in all points as I could.

THE

THE HISTORY OF FORTUNATUS.

CHAP. I.

The Birth of Fortunatus.

IN the Isle of Cyprus there is a great city called Famagosta, wherein dwelt a rich citizen, descended of an ancient and renowned stock, whose name was Theodorus, unto whom his progenitors had left so much goods and revenues, that through the abundance of wealth, he esteemed himself mighty and puissant; he was young of age, of lusty disposition, and given up to pleasure, little considering the frugality and thriftiness of his ancestors, whereby they carefully augmented their goods and possessions, which he without care enjoyed; so that his mind being wholly addicted unto honour, pastime, and worldly pleasure, he presumed to bear the countenance of an

high and coſtly eſtate, by frequenting prince's courts, juſtings, and ſuch like martial exerciſe, by which means he ſoon waſted much of his goods and treaſure. His friends being greatly diſpleaſed with his prodigality, determined to marry him, ſuppoſing thereby to alter his mind. Theodorus willingly condeſcended to their deſires; whereupon they ſearched to find out a comely ſpouſe for him, which they did in the city of Nicova, the head of the iſle of Cyprus, and where their kings kept their courts, a noble and rich citizen, who had a fair daughter, named Gratiana, whom he forthwith gave in marriage to Theodorus, without any farther enquiry what manner of man he was; whereupon ſhe was brought to him, only upon the great fame of his riches and valour, and was, at her coming, entertained with a coſtly and ſumptuous banquet, as the manner of the rich ſhew at ſuch times their wealth and magnificence. When the feaſt was ended, and all things accordingly finiſhed, every gueſt took their leave and returned home, Theodorus took his ſpouſe unto him, and lived for a ſeaſon friendly and virtuouſly with her; wherewith both ſhe and her friends took great pleaſure, thinking they had done a good deed in taming the wild Theodorus by marrying him; but yet they conſidered not the property of nature, which bendeth only to that which ſhe is inclined. In proceſs of time Gratiana became great with child, and was delivered before the year was fully compleat from the day of the wedding, which made the friends of both parties exceeding glad. Then was the child chriſtened by the name of Fortunatus; and although Theodorus rejoiced, yet he ceaſed not to follow his diverſions in juſting, keeping a great train of men and horſes, and daily uſing prince's courts, not without exceſſive charges; inſomuch that he began to ſell and mort-

gage

gage ſeveral pieces of land, leaving both wife and child unregarded. Then in ſelling and gaming he continued ſo long, that he was in ſuch extreme poverty, that he could neither keep men ſervant or maid, ſo that good Gratiana was forced to dreſs her own meat and waſh her own cloaths. But one day ſitting at dinner, pretending to make good chear, if they had wherewithal, the father beholding his ſon, ſighed from the bottom of his heart; which when his ſon perceived, who was then eighteen years old, and could not only write and read, but was expert in playing on the lute, in hunting and hawking, which were his chief employments, he ſaid to his father ——— 'Dear father, what ails you? for I perceive that when you look on me you become ſad. I pray you, father, have I by any means provoked you to be offended? Tell me truly, and hide not your ſecret thoughts from me, for I am wholly determined to accompliſh your will in all reaſonable points.'—

Then anſwered the father, ſaying, 'My dear ſon, the occaſion of my grief cometh not by thee, neither can I blame any creature but myſelf for the pinching penury which now I ſuſtain have I myſelf cauſed; and therefore I call to mind the great honor and wealth that I lately enjoyed, and am now utterly deprived of, which my anceſtors have ſo carefully ſpared, as I ought alſo to have done for the maintenance of our progeny in honor and dignity, the which, alas, I have altogether neglected: when I call to mind how far unable I am to help and ſuccour thee, my only child; this is the heart's grief that vexeth me both day and night. This doubles my ſorrows, that all theſe my moſt familiar companions, to whom I ſo frankly imparted my goods, have now abandoned my company, and that I am ſo little welcome to them.'

To

'To this answered Fortunatus, saying, 'Dearly beloved father, cast off your mourning, and take no such immoderate care about me, for I am young, strong, and healthy; I will travel into far countries to serve you; in the world, by hard adventuring, there happeneth to many good fortune; whereof I doubt not but by the help of God, some part shall fall to my lot. As for you, father, you have business of the king's; him may you serve, and it is not like that he will suffer you or my mother long to continue in any great want. Leave off, therefore, I pray you, these tears on my behalf; for I have not been so ill trained up (I thank God and you for it) but I can shift for myself.'

With this went Fortunatus out of the house, with a hawk on his fist, toward the sea coast, pondering with himself what he might best do in his absence from his father's sight, that he might be no more grieved thereby.

As he walked up and down by the sea-side he saw a galley of Venice coming from Jerusalem, wherein was an Earl of Flanders, who had lost two of his men by the way. But as the Earl had no business with the king, and that the patron of the vessel caused a sign to be given by sound of trumpet that every one should speedily come on board, the earl, with many other gentlemen, came forthwith, which Fortunatus seeing, thought in his mind, 'Would to God I might be one of this great lord's men to accompany him, that I might be rid of my country Cyprus.' With that he stepped boldly to the earl, making low obeisance and courtesy, whereby the earl perceived he was no clown, and thereupon said, 'Gracious lord, I understand your lordship hath lost two men, will you please to accept of me?'

Then

Then ſaid the earl, 'What canſt thou do?—He anſwered, 'I can hunt and hawk, and do all things that belong thereto; I have alſo ſome ſkill in riding and feats of arms.'—To this ſaid the earl, 'Thou

ſhouldſt I like well; but to my country we have a long and tedious journey; therefore I ſuppoſe thou wouldſt be loth to travel ſo far.'—'Not ſo, my lord,' ſaid Fortunatus 'that ſhall be to me no ſtop at all, for I would willingly venture the travel though it was four times as far.' Then the earl ſaid, 'What wages ſhall I give thee?' Fortunatus anſwered—'I require

require no wages, but to be rewarded according to my deserts.' These words of the young man the earl liked very well, saying unto him—'The galley forthwith shall be launched from the shore—Art thou ready to go with us?' He answered—'When it pleaseth you my lord.' And so casting the hawk that he had upon his fist up into the air, he departed with the earl, without the blessing of father or mother, and became his man, carrying with him very little furniture, and no money in his purse. So hoisting up their sail, they quickly arrived at Venice.

CHAP. II.

How Fortunatus *got greatly in Favour with the Earl and several other Noblemen, and how the other Servants envied him, &c.*

WHEN Fortunatus was come to Venice, having, in passing through it, seen all the curiosities of that city, the earl stayed not long there, but made all speed possible to return again into his own country to see his friends; for he was determined at his return to be wedded to the daughter of the Duke of Cleves, the marriage being appointed before his departure; for which cause he made the more haste. Before they departed Fortunatus bought for his lord at Venice very costly jewels, garments of velvet, cloth of gold, and whatsoever else was requisite for the wedding; for though he had many men, yet was there none of them that could speak the Italian tongue but Fortunatus, who was very expert to buy and sell, and therefore was in great favor with the earl. Fortunatus perceiving his lord's good affection towards him, became the more ser-

vice-

viceable, applying himſelf to be always in the evening the laſt, and in the morning the firſt in his lord's preſence.

Now the earl had bought many horſes for his ſervants, of which ſome were more fair to the eye than fit for any good; he therefore would have them muſtered before him, and ſo diſtributed them among his men, giving one of the beſt to Fortunatus; thereupon the ſervants envyed him, ſaying among themſelves, 'What devil hath ſent this Italian to put us out of credit?' However it lay not in their power to hinder him from riding with the earl, neither could they blame him in any point.

The earl was now returned home joyfully, and at his coming was received of his ſubjects moſt honorably; for he was both affable, juſt, and virtuous, and ſo the better beloved of his ſubjects, for that he loved them, and was careful for their good. The nobles likewiſe, and other friendly neighbours, came together to welcome him, thanking God for his proſperous journey; and before all other matters they took ſpecial care for the preſent accompliſhing of the wedding, which pleaſed him very well; ſo that with conſent he was eſpouſed unto the Duke of Cleve's daughter: for the wedding great preparation was made, and thither did reſort many lords of great eſtate, where many valiant knights and gentlemen in rich attire, mounted on barbed ſteeds, at the tilts, and tournaments, and other ſuch feats of chivalry, extended their manly force before the fair and noble ladies there preſent. And though there were aſſembled at that wedding no ſmall number of proper and comely ſervitors attending on the chief eſtates, yet there was none of them all, whoſe ſervice and behaviour was more commended than the ſervice of Fortunatus; whereupon divers demanding of the earl

earl where he had gotten him, he declared unto them, that he by fortune chanced on him in the way coming from Jeruſalem; and alſo told them that he was ſo expert in hunting and hawking, that neither beaſt of the field nor fowl of the air might hardly eſcape him: beſide that he alſo commended him for his diligent ſervice, and for that he could fit himſelf to all eſtates; by means of which commendation of his lord he had many preſents given him by noblemen and ladies.

CHAP. III.

How Fortunatus *juſted at the Earl's Wedding and gained the Prize.*

WHEN the lords and nobles had finiſhed their triumphs and martial games, the Duke of Cleve and his bridegroom (the Earl of Flanders) agreed that their ſervants and retinues ſhould likewiſe have their paſtime, and try who were maſters in juſting for two jewels, eſteemed to be worth an hundred crowns, and he that might obtain the prize ſhould have one of them. Of this were all the ſervants glad, and every man put forth himſelf to do his beſt. So it befell that one of the Duke of Burgundy's ſervants had one of the jewels on one ſide, and Fortunatus won the other on the contrary party; which the moſt part of the ſervants diſliked; and thereupon they intreated Timothy, the Duke of Burgundy's man, making him many fair promiſes to recompence him with the like deſerts if he would undertake to challenge Fortunatus to try in juſting who would have born the jewels; Timothy having no power to deny the requeſt of ſo many good fellows;

lows, made open challenge unto Fortunatus, before the ladies and gentlemen, to just with him, and that whosoever obtained the prize should possess the jewels. When Fortunatus heard that he took no great deliberation, but accepted the challenge with a valiant Courage. This being noised among the lords, they gladly drew together to see the combat. The challenger and defender, each of them well accoutred, came to the tilt yard, where they encountered

with a manly and valiant courage, being on either part stirred with a fervent desire both of lucre and fame. At the fourth course Fortunatus hoisted Timothy from his horse the space of a spear's length; whereupon he won the victory, and obtained the jewels, esteemed worth more than two hundred crowns; by this was the envy of his fellow servants more vehemently encreased; the earl himself rejoiced greatly that one of his retinue had so victo-

riouſly won the chief prize. However he knew not of the grudge and malice that his men had againſt Fortunatus; neither durſt any man diſcloſe it unto him.

Among the earl's ſervants there was one an old ſubtle fellow, named Robert, who offered himſelf to practiſe a trick of knavery in behalf of all his fellow ſervants, promiſing unto them, that if they would give unto him ten crowns in ready money, he would bring it to paſs that the Italian ſhould depart of his own accord, without taking leave of his lord, or of any other, and that none thereof ſhould be ſuſpected.

Then ſaid his fellows, 'If thou canſt do as thou haſt ſaid, why didſt thou delay to attempt the ſame?' He anſwered—'Stay awhile, for I cannot do it without preſent money; but if every one of you will give me half a crown, I will repay unto each of you a whole crown if I do not perform what I have ſaid.'

Then they were all willing to grant this requeſt, ſo that they ſpeedily collected the ſum of fifteen crowns, and gave them to Robert, who willed them to ſpeak no more unto him concerning that matter, and that every one ſhould behave himſelf as he had done before. From henceforth this Robert became daily companion to Fortunatus, ſhewing himſelf very friendly to him, inveigling him with pleaſant converſation, and recounting of things done in the country, which was delighting to Fortunatus. He enticed him into the company of fair women, where he, at his own coſt, would always ſend for wine, and other niceties for their company. Robert would alſo praiſe his riches, nobility, and valiant courage, which pleaſed Fortunatus. And when he would offer him money for their expences, Robert would

not

not ſuffer him to pay any part; ſaying, he loved him better than any of his brethren, and therefore thought all too little that was beſtowed on him.

This good fellowſhip continued ſo long, that the reſt of the ſervants were therewith grieved, ſaying one to another—'Doth Robert mean to drive away Fortunatus with ſuch a life? it is rather to be ſuppoſed that if he were in Cyprus again, and to have ſuch pleaſant entertainment, he would think it long ere he were returned hither; ſurely he doth not fulfil his promiſe, and therefore it is meet that we have our money again.' Robert being adviſed thereof, ſcoffed at them, ſaying—'Would they have me make better chear with their money than I have?' Notwithſtanding at the laſt, when the money was near all ſpent, on an evening, when the earl and his wife were gone to reſt, cometh Robert to Fortunatus into his chamber ſecretly, and ſaid, 'Even now hath the maſter chancellor told me a ſecret, for he is my ſingular good friend, and did earneſtly forbid me, on pain of loſing his friendſhip, that I ſhould diſcloſe it to no man; but yet I cannot, for the friendſhip that is between us, conceal this thing from thee, which ſo nearly toucheth thine eſtate—thus ſtands the caſe—As thou knoweſt our lord hath a fair woman to wife, and hath many fair gentlewomen with her; he hath of late conceived a fancy, and is become very jealous of his ſpouſe, and the other gentlewomen, leſt his young chamberlains be enamoured, and ſo provoked to carnal luſt; and though he dare repoſe ſuch confidence in them, that they would conſent to no diſhoneſty, yet can he not well put out of his mind what a blind thing love is, and when it is once kindled how hard it is quenched; and that when true lovers are linked with like affections, nothing may ſeparate them but death. To

prevent this, he is counſelled and fully minded on the morrow to ride to Lauſan, where he is at law with an earl concerning certain land and money, and deſigns to go thither with all his men about him, becauſe he is informed that the Earl of St. Paul, his adverſary, will be there alſo with no ſmall company, richly accoutred; and, while he remains there, he will cauſe the four chamberlains to be gelded, whether they will or no, and then ſet them in their office as before; he will alſo ſhew the matter unto his wife, forbidding her to diſcloſe it unto any perſon. However he knoweth well that he cannot long conceal it from her waiting gentlewomen, who will moſt likely ſpeak of it to others, ſo that by paſſing from one to another, it will be ſpread abroad; and by this means he pretendeth to prevent all miſchief that might chance among you through amorous love, for he conſidereth that no woman regardeth a gelded man.'

When Fortunatus had heard this report, he was therewith amazed, and then aſked him whether he knew any way whereby he might convey himſelf with ſpeed out of the city; ſaying, 'I will not in any caſe abide the preſence of my lord, though he would give me all his lands; no, though I could be made a king, would I ſerve him any longer; I pray, therefore, help me, good Robert, and give me ſome counſel how I may ſpeedily depart.'

Robert anſwered, ſaying, 'Thou knoweſt all the gates of the city be now ſhut, that none can go out or in until to-morrow the bell warneth to ſervice.—But, my beloved Fortunatus, if I myſelf were in your caſe, I would not greatly refuſe it, conſidering the great love and affection that thy lord hath conceived towards thee, whereby thou art like to come to great preferment'—

'Then

'Then,' ſaid Fortunatus, 'I would rather become a beggar, to wander as a vagabond from place to place, than to endure ſuch a ſhame.' Then ſpake Robert again, ſaying, 'I am ſorry that I ever advertiſed thee of theſe things: let me hear from you by letter where you are, that when our lord ſhall be ſufficiently provided with gelded men to be his chamberlains, I may let you know that you may repair hither again; for I do not doubt but at any time you will be entertained by the earl. To this anſwered Fortunatus, ſaying—'You ſhall have no occaſion to write or ſend to me, for ſo long as I live I will not come to this court any more; I therefore earneſtly requeſt thee not to diſcloſe my departure until I have been three days away.' Which Robert promiſed him, and ſo took his leave of him, pretended that he was very ſorry. This this traitorous Judas impoſed on Fortunatus. It was about midnight, when every one was gone to reſt; but Fortunatus's head was full of thought, ſo that every hour ſeemed unto him three; for he feared the earl ſhould hear of his departure, and cauſe him to be detained. So paſſing all the night in fear and grief, at the break of day he took his journey on horſeback.

CHAP. IV.

How the Earl was exceeding ſorry for the Departure of Fortunatus.

WHEN the earl underſtood that Fortunatus had departed without leave, and as he knew no cauſe whereat he might be offended, neither had he paid him his wages, he greatly marvelled, and there-

upon demanded of all his ſervants, whether they knew any thing of his going; they all denied that they knew any thing of it, and ſwore that they had not by any means to their knowledge affronted him. Then went the earl to the ladies and gentlewomen, enquiring alſo of them whether they knew the cauſe of his going away without leave. The counteſs and all the other gentlewomen anſwered, that they knew not of any thing that might offend him in word or deed; but that in the evening before his departure he was exceeding merry and pleaſant; reported unto them of the attire of women, and of many other uſages and cuſtoms of his country, 'and that in ſuch rough language as we could not refrain from laughter, and he himſelf was laughing with us; and ſo with no worſe countenance he left our company.' —Then ſaid the earl, 'Although the cauſe of his flight he now concealed from me, I doubt not but I ſhall be advertiſed thereof; and if I know that any any of mine was the occaſion of it, I ſhall be ſharply revenged on him: for I know that Fortunatus is not fled without ſome great cauſe. I am ſure he hath gotten about five hundred crowns ſince he came here; and I thought he would not have departed ſo ſuddenly; but I perceive he is not minded to return, ſeeing he hath taken with him all his jewels and ſubſtance.'

When Robert perceived that his lord was ſo ſorry for Fortunatus, great fear fell on him, leſt any of his fellows ſhould betray him, that he went away upon his procurement; whereupon he went to every one particularly, requiring them not to diſcloſe his doings—which they faithfully promiſed him; and were very inſtant to know by what means he brought his purpoſe to paſs, and that he ſo ſuddenly went away: at length to one that was moſt in his favour,

and

and more importunate than the reſt, he ſaid that Fortunatus had ſhewed him the ſtate of his father, how he was become poor, and ſerved in the King of Cyprus's court; 'whereupon,' ſaid Robert, 'I have ſhewed him that a poſt was paſſed this way from the King of Cyprus towards the King of England, to advertiſe him of the King of Cyprus's death, for they were of near kindred; which poſt reported unto me, That the king had exalted the eſtate of Theodorus his father, and had given him the earldom of Anſelmus de Teraceno, who died without any heir; by reaſon whereof the earldom was fallen into the king's hands; for which Theodorus making the firſt ſuit, obtained it, and both he and his heirs were therein confirmed by his letters patent. When I had told him he ſcarcely believed me; notwithſtanding upon this only he is departed.'

When the others of his fellows heard this, they ſaid among themſelves, 'How uncircumſpect was Fortunatus! For if ſuch good fortune had chanced unto him, and he had told our earl thereof, doubtleſs he would have given him a good word, with ſome of us to accompany him; and ſo he would have been honourably received into his own country, and ſtill have retained the favour and friendſhip of his lord and maſter.'

CHAP. V.

How Fortunatus *came to* London, *and conſumed his Money in the Company of riotous Perſons and Harlots.*

NOW we ſhall leave the Earl of Flanders, with his men, who knew little how Robert had deceived

ceived Fortunatus with a lie; however he heard afterwards that Fortunatus did well.

When he was arrived in England he immediately went to London, which is a great city, frequented by merchants of all countries in Europe; thither at his arrival was come a ship from Cyprus, freighted with costly wares, the factors whereof were two young merchants. When their ships, therefore, were unladen, their wares sold, great sums of money received, and the customs discharged, they were merry and jocund, as youths commonly be, which have not been accustomed to the handling and use of money; into the company of these young men chanced Fortunatus, with whom he soon made himself acquainted, shewing them all offices of friendship in a strange land. These three happened into a company of other extravagants, who usually haunted the houses of harlots, gamesters, and other disorderly people This life they led for the space of half a year, till their money was gone, and then they thought it was time to take care of themselves.

CHAP. VI.

How the two Cyprus *Merchants, when their Money was spent, returned home.*

FORTUNATUS had the least spring, so that his well was soon emptied; and the others also were drawn almost dry, and had consumed what they had received for their wares, on sumptuous banquets and fair women; then was all their hot love quenched with a cold purse, though they persuaded themselves otherwise, and had often heard it said

ſaid ſcoffingly unto them, 'Go and fetch more money.' In the mean while the other merchants of Cyprus were ready to repair home, and the maſter of the ſhip gave warning to the young men to be in readineſs, who went forthwith to their lodging to make their accounts with heavy hearts, finding that they had received vaſt ſums of money, with which they ſhould have bought wool, cloth, tin, lead, and other merchandize, they had conſumed in Engliſh beer, delicate fare, and womens' fleſh. And notwithſtanding, though they were now but bare merchants, yet they took ſhip with the reſt; and came home without goods; but how they were entertained by their fathers at their return we know not.

CHAP. VII.

How Fortunatus, *ſtraying in a Wood, was benighted, and in Danger of his Life.*

FORTUNATUS being deſtitute of Money, he ſpeedily conveyed himſelf out of England, and arrived in Piccardy, where he would gladly have ſerved, but could get no maſter; ſo he went farther, and came to Britain, where he adventuring to paſs through a large wood, was driven to ſtay all day long, and could find no way out. And being benighted, he eſpied an old houſe where ſome glaſs had been made, whereof he was glad, ſuppoſing to have found ſome people therein; but when he came into it there was no creature; nevertheleſs he ſtayed there all night with extreme hunger and thirſt, and alſo in great fear of the wild beaſts which there haunted, greedily longing for the day, and praying God to help him out of the wood, leſt he ſhould periſh

riſh for want of food. In the morning he intended to croſs the next way out of the wood, but it chanced contrary in the length; for the farther he went on the more he ſtrayed, and thus wandered he the ſecond day alſo, with much grief; and when night came on he happened on a fountain, and being feeble, for that he had received no ſuſtenance in two days, drank thereof with ſuch an appetite, that he was thereby ſomewhat refreſhed.

As he ſat down by this fountain (the moon ſhining clear) he heard a great noiſe in the wood, as though it had been the grunting of bears, wherefore he ſtirred his ſtumps, and conveyed himſelf a litile out of ſight; and therewithal deviſing how he might beſt ſhift to be ſafe from the wild beaſts, he climbed up a tree well covered with boughs, not far from

the fountain, from whence he beheld many ſorts of wild and ſavage beaſts coming to drink. Among them was a bear not fully grown, which eſpied Fortunatus, and began to climb up the tree after him, where-

whereat he was ſore afraid; and when he had climbed as far as he was able, he ſtanding on a bough, drew his ſword, and ſticked the bear in the head, and wounded him elſewhere in many places; whereupon the bear ſo greedily ſtretched himſelf at Fortunatus, that the bough brake whereon he ſtayed, and ſo fell to the ground. When Fortunatus perceived the coaſt clear from all other beaſts, ſave only the bear, that could now ſcarcely remove himſelf, deſcended from the tree and thruſt his ſword through him, and then laying his mouth to the wound, ſucked out the warm blood, wherewith he was ſomewhat refreſhed, and lay down and ſlept by the bear till morning.

CHAP. VIII.

How the Lady Fortune *gave to* Fortunatus *a Purſe that never wanted Money.*

AS ſoon as he awaked, he ſaw ſtanding before him a fair and beautiful woman, muffled over the eyes. Wherefore he praiſed and thanked God devoutly, that yet he behold one of mankind before his death; and to the woman he ſaid, 'I beſeech thee, ſweet virgin, for the love of God, to aſſiſt me, that I may come out of this wood, for this is the third day that I have been irkſomely wandered without any meat, and herewith declared to her alſo, what had chanced concerning the bear. Then demanded ſhe of him, ſaying, 'Of what country art thou, and what moved thee to come thither?' He anſwered, 'I am of the iſle of Cyprus, and poverty hath conſtrained me to wander, I care not greatly whither,

whither, until ſuch time as God, when it pleaſeth him, ſhall provide for me a compleat living.

She ſaid, 'Fear not, Fortunatus, for I am lady Fortune; and by the influence of the heaven, ſtars, and planets, are given me ſix powers, which I may beſtow on one or more for a long time or ſhort ſpace, according to the government of the celeſtial planets, and the permiſſion of the almighty God: the which are, wiſdom, riches, ſtrength, health, beauty, and long life; chuſe one of theſe ſix, and make no long

muſing, for the hour of choice is nearly paſt. I was ſent by the divine power, to beſtow one of theſe worldly gifts on thee, which ſuits your inclination beſt.'

Fortunatus took no longer deliberation of the matter but said, 'Then I desire riches so plenty, that I may never lack so long as I live.' She then gave him a purse and said, 'Take this, and in what country soever thou art, as often as thou puttest thy hand into it thou shalt draw forth ten pieces of gold of the same nation's coin; and it shall retain this virtue during the life of thee and thy children, or any one else during your lives, but not after your deaths; therefore esteem it accordingly, and take special care therof.'

Then said Fortunatus, 'Courteous and bountiful lady, forasmuch as you have freely bestowed such an incomparable jewel on me, gratitude binds me to do something for your sake, lest this benefit, in time, slip out of my remembrance.'

She answered him demurely, saying, 'If thou hadst chosen wisdom instead of riches, thou wouldst not have been careful to yield recompence where it is not deserved; for knowest thou not that I am guided by the finger of the omnipotent God? And perceivest thou not that my eyes are muffled; not regarding whom I please, not seeing where I bestow; render thanks only therefore where it is due, unto the Giver of all good gifts, to whom thou canst yield no better recompence than of thy riches freely received to bestow on the poor and needy, where, when, and to whom it is expedient.'

Then said Fortunatus, 'This will I willingly perform to the utmost of my power, and beside, I make a solemn vow, that this day I will always keep holy, and in what country soever I am, I will bestow 400 crowns of that nation's coin upon some marriageable virgin, in perpetual remembrance how I first obtained my riches, which I will do annually.'

Then said the lady, 'Follow me;' and she led him as by chance through the wood into a beaten way, telling him to follow that path, without turning on the left hand or the right; and that he should not look which way she went, neither any more trust unto her. Fortunatus did as she told him, and travelled speedily till he came out of the wood, where he espied a great house which was an inn, where men that passed the wood to and fro usually refreshed themselves. Before he approached the house he took the purse out of his bosom, to try whether the lady's promise would prove effectual, that he might have wherewith to pay his charges, and putting his hand into the purse, drew out ten crowns, whereof he was glad; and then entered joyfully into the inn, calling presently to the host for the best meat he had, saying he would content him, for he was very hungry; that pleased the host very well, so he furnished his table with good fare.

CHAP. IX.

How Fortunatus, *for buying certain Horses, was taken Prisoner, and in Danger of his Life.*

WHEN Fortunatus had sufficiently slackened his hunger and thirst, he rested there three days to refresh his empty stomach and weary limbs, and at his departure bought of the host a compleat harness, to the intent he might be the sooner entertained, and so, discharging the host to his full contentment, departed farther.

There was two miles distant from the wood a little town, with a castle, wherein dwelt an earl, who had jurisdiction of the wood granted him by the Duke of

of Britain. Fortunatus passing that way, entered the best inn of the town, and asked the host if he knew of any good horses to be sold. The host answered—'Yesterday came a strange merchant with fifteen fair palfreys, intending to sell them at the feast that the Duke of Britain doth make to the king's daughter of Arragon, among which our earl had chosen three of the best, and hath offered for them three hundred crowns, but the merchant demaned twenty more.'

Fortunatus being thus certified went to his chamber, and privately took out of his purse 600 crowns, which he put into a bag, and said to the host, 'Where is the merchant with his horses? I would fain see them.' The host said, 'I believe the man will scarcely let you see them, for he was very unwilling to shew them unto the earl.' Then said Fortunatus, 'If I like the horses well, I dare perhaps buy them sooner than the earl.'

The host supposed he had but jested in so boasting himself, being so simply apparelled, and also a footman; yet brought he him to the horse-master, with whom he communed so far, that they were brought forth and ridden before him. He liked them all, but meant to buy those which the earl had cheapened, wherefore he readily delivered him three hundred and twenty crowns, and ordered them to be brought to his inn. He bespoke also costly saddles and trimmed furniture for them, and desired his host to provide two comely servants, to whom he promised to give good entertainment. Whilst he was thus furnishing himself after the bravest manner, the earl had intelligence that he had bought the horses which he thought to have had, whereat he was greatly disappointed, when as he purposed to accompany many noble persons at the wedding feast; wherefore in great indignation he sent one of his men to the inn-

keeper, to demand what manner of man he was that had so spitefully bought the horses out of his hands. The host said he knew him not, but that he came into the inn as a footman, furnished with armour as a horseman, requiring him to procure horses for him, and promised therefore to content him. 'But after he had once dined with me, I liked him so well that, had he not paid me for the first, I would not have trusted him for the second, least he should have beguiled me.'

Then said the servant to the host, 'Wherefore did you recommend him to the horses?' The inn-keeper answered, 'Therein have I done as every honest host ought to do for his guest in such a case; and although he required me to go with him to cheapen such fair horses, yet I thought him scarce able to buy silly asses.'

CHAP. X.

How Fortunatus *was taken into Custody, and strictly questioned how he came by his money.*

THE servant returning with this answer to the earl, who being informed that he was no gentleman, commanded his officers and servants, in a great rage, to lay hands on him, saying, that he had surelly committed some great robbery, or murdered some man. The servants executed his commands and enclosed him in a loathsome prison, asking who, and whence he was?

He answered, 'I was born in a town of Cyprus, called Famagosta, and I am the son of a poor gentlemen.'

Then

Then ſaid the earl, 'By what means did you get ſo much money?'—He ſaid, 'My money is my own truly gotten, and therefore I truſt your honour will not rigorouſly enforce me to recount from whence I had it.' To this ſaid the earl—'Thy prating will not avail thee, but thou ſhalt confeſs ere thou depart where and how thou haſt obtained this money.'—With that he cauſed him to be brought to the rack; when Fortunatus ſaw how extremely he ſhould be dealt withal, he was ſore afraid, but he purpoſed rather to die than open the ſecret virtues of the purſe: but when he was racked, and felt the grievous tortures and pangs thereof, he cried to them to looſe him, and promiſed to anſwer whatſoever they would aſk; then being again aſked how he came by ſo many fair crowns, he ſaid, 'After I had numbered three days in the wood, and with much ado at laſt came out into the field, I found a purſe wherein was ſix hundred and ten crowns.' Then ſaid the earl—'Where is that purſe?' Fortunatus ſaid—'When I had told the money, I put it into my own bag, and caſt the purſe into the river that runneth by the wood.'—'Thou varlet,' ſaid the earl, 'wilt thou rob me of that which is mine? Thou ſhalt well underſtand, that both thy body and goods are forfeited unto me; for whatſoever is in the wood is mine own.' Then ſaid Fortunatus—'Gracious lord, 'I knew not of your juriſdiction therein, for I thanked God for it, and eſteemed it as a gift.'—'And thinkeſt thou,' ſaid the earl, 'this is a ſufficient excuſe for thee? Didſt thou never he ſay, Hear who is ignorant ſhould aſk? Therefore, to be ſhort, prepare thyſelf, for to-day will I take from thee thy goods, and to-morrow thy life.'

Then thought Fortunatus to himſelf—'Miſerable wretch that I am! how uncircumſpect was I, having the

free election of six gifts, that I chose not wisdom before the rest, I had not fallen into this danger and thraldom.' And then he craved mercy, saying—'O gracious earl, have compassion on a poor wanderer, and seek not my death, which will avail you nothing. Take unto you the goods found which be yours and spare the life which God hath lent me, and I will evermore pray for your welfare.'

The earl was very loth to pardon him, because he feared he might make an ill report of his rigour, where he should come, which might turn to his reproach among other noblemen, when they should hear thereof: notwithstanding, he being moved to mercy by the entreaty of his men, granted him his life, but bereft him of all his goods excepting the harness; which he rendered to him again, with a crown also in his pocket.

The earl in the morning, before day commanded his men to bring him without the town, and there to take an oath of him that he should never again come into his jurisdiction so long as he lived: Fortunatus inwardly rejoiced that he had so well escaped; for if the earl had but known the truth, most likely he had been bereft of his most precious purse.

After this Fortunatus went to Angiers, which is the chief town of Britain, situated by the sea coast, where then lodged many lords with noble retinues, waiting for the appearance of the duchess, whom they proposed to welcome with all kinds of martial games, dancing, masking, and other such triumphant pastimes; of this was Fortunatus very glad; and being desirous to advance himself among them, thought thus with himself—'If I should do in all points as I can if I will, peradventure I should be served as I was with the earl.'

How-

Howbeit he ventured once again to buy three fine horſes, with coſtly furniture, and hiring two ſervants, cloathed them both, and himſelf in fine apparel, and then lodged in the beſt inn in Angiers, there intending to wait the ducheſs's coming, and to receive her in company of other gentlemen. So the ducheſs being landed was met by many nobles of great eſtate, and ſo conveyed to Angiers, where the Duke held a feaſt for the ſpace of ſix weeks.

CHAP. XI.

How Fortunatus *entertained an* Iriſh *Gentlemen to be his Guide and Companion in Travelling.*

FORTUNATUS, delighted in the company of ſuch luſty gallants, and with the ſight of many ſumptuous ſhews, uſed very often to go and come to the court, with his goodly horſes, and his two men, leaving nothing worth behind him in the inn; which the hoſt miſliked, foraſmuch as he knew him not, fearing leſt he ſhould give him the ſlip, and leave him in the lurch for his charges, as others had done at the like feaſts before: therefore he ſaid unto him, 'Friend, ſince I have ſo ſmall acquaintance with you, I pray you let me be diſcharged for what you have had every day, before you ride to the court.' With that Fortunatus ſmiled and ſaid—'I mean not to depart without paying you to the utmoſt; and for a ſufficient teſtimony to ſatisfy thy mind, take here of me theſe hundred crowns; and when thou thinkeſt that I and mine have ſpent the value thereof, tell it me, and I will give thee more; neither will I expect any ſtrict account of thee.' The hoſt received

ceived the money, and after that, much more reverently esteemed Fortunatus, touching his hat always when he passed by; setting him in the worthiest place at the table, and a much better chamber than he had before.

As Fortunatus sat at the board with many lords, thither resorted several sorts of musicians to make mirth and pastime for money; amongst them came a lusty old man, declaring unto them his poverty; and said, moreover, that he was a gentleman of Ireland, and that in the space of seven years, he had travelled throughout ten empires, and twenty kingdoms; 'Whereby,' said he, 'I am driven to this poor estate; therefore I beseech your honours to assist me with your courteous liberality towards my charges, to pass home into my own country.'

A certain earl sitting at the board, asked him to name all the countries through which he had passed.

The old gentleman did as he was requested truly, and at large, and said furthermore—'There are few of these kingdoms but have also, at the least, three or four dukes under it, besides other earls and lords, both spiritual and temporal; all these have I seen, which have every one their proper language, whereof I learned so much as, if need were, I could express my mind in any of them. I have, moreover, in writing, the name of every king that reigned when I was in the court, and the true distance from every kingdom to the other.' The earl said—— 'Would to God I had been with thee every where, so that I were here again as I am now.' He then gave him four crowns, and offered him also if he would stay there whilst the feast lasted, to pay for his charges.

The

The gentleman thanked him for his gift and generous proffer, and ſaid, he much longed to ſee his friends and native home, and therefore was loth to ſtay any longer.

Fortunatus had given good attention to the old gentleman's diſcourſe, and thought in his mind, 'If I might have him to guide me through ſtrange countries, I would richly reward him.' So preſently after dinner he ſent for the gentleman, and aſked his name, who anſwered—'I am called Leopoldus.'—Then ſaid Fortunatus—'I perceive even now by your words that you have wandered through many kingdoms; I am a young man earneſtly diſpoſed to paſs my youth in travel for experience in wiſdom; if thou therefore will vouchſafe to be my guide and companion, I will give thee a good horſe for thyſelf, and another for a man that I will keep to attend thee, I will allow you whatever you ſpend with reaſon, and will eſteem thee as my brother.'

Then ſaid Leopoldus, 'I could be content to enjoy ſuch courteous entertainment, but alas! I am old, and have a wife and children that know not what is become of me, and therefore natural love compels me to return home again.'

Then ſaid Fortunatus, 'If thou wilt agree to my propoſals, I faithfully promiſe thee that I will alſo go with you into Ireland; and will moreover endow thee, thy wife, and thy children, if they be alive, with ſufficient, if our journey ſpeed well, and that we may ſafe return to Famagoſta (that lieth in the iſle of Cyprus) and I will there provide thee a houſe, men and women ſervants, and all things neceſſary during thy life, if you approve of ſtaying therein.'

Leopoldus thought within himſelf—'This young man promiſeth me very much, and if he be able to per-

perform it accordingly, it falleth out luckily for me in my old age;' and therewith said to Fortunatus—'I am content to grant your request, so far as you accomplish your promise; but I would not wish you to undertake such a matter, except you have as much ready money as shall be requisite, for travelling requires infinite charges, if we look to be well used and treated.'

Then said Fortunatus—'For money care thou not, for in every country I can get enough. Be content therefore to promise that thou wilt remain with me to my journey's end. He said again——'Promise you me also to give me that which you bequested.' Thus did they faithfully vow, the one not to forsake the other, what danger soever might betide.

When they were thus both agreed Fortunatus gave to Leopoldus 200 crowns, saying, 'Go and buy two horses, and hire thee a servant, and when the money is spent I will give thee more.'

Leopoldus thinking this a good beginning, furnished himself with a horse and a man; the like did Fortunatus also, and took with him but two servants and a page; so that they were in all six persons.—They then agreed upon the stages of their journey, determining first to travel over the whole empire of Rome, and so took their way by Neremberg, Augsburg, Norliagen, Ulme, Constance, Basil, Stresburg, Mentz, Colen, and so from Colen to Burges in Flanders, from thence to London in England, which is the chief city of the realm, and so next to Edinburgh, the chief city of Scotland, which is nine days journey from London.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

How Fortunatus *accompanied his Man home.*

AND when they were there, they had yet three days journey into Ireland, where Leopoldus dwelt. When they were arrived in Dublin, Leopoldus requeſted his maſter to go with him into his houſe, which was in a town called Waldrink; where, at his return, he found his wife and children as he had left them, ſaving that one of his daughters was married, and all his family were glad of his coming.

And whereas Fortunatus conſidered that Leopoldus had no more proviſion than was needful for his houſhold, he gave him an hundred crowns, to ordain all things after the moſt ſumptuous manner, againſt he ſhould come to make good cheer with him. Then Leopoldus made proviſion of great plenty of delicate food, and had his children with their huſbands and wives, and many other friends and neighbours to accompany his maſter at the feaſt. So there was kept ſuch bountiful cheer for that time, that all the town fared the better for him.

Fortunatus, after the feaſt was ended, called Leopoldus to him and ſaid, 'Thou muſt now again take leave of thy wife and children, wherefore receive of me three purſes, in each of them is 500 crowns, and whereof thou ſhalt give one to thy wife, another to thy ſon, and the third to thy daughter, that they may have ſufficient to live upon while thou art gone.' Leopoldus greatly thanked him for his liberal gifts, and therewith made his wife and children exceeding glad.

CHAP.

CHAP XIII.

How Fortunatus *went to* Constantinople *to the Coronation of the young Emperor.*

WHEN they arrived at Venice, they heard that the Emperor of Constantinople would have his son crowned emperor, and because he was himself very old, he would yield up to him the whole authority and jurisdiction of the empire, for the term of both their lives; whereupon the Venetians appointed a worshipful ambassador to go to the young emperor in a galley, and to deliver unto him certain jewels sent in token of gratulation from them. Fortunatus therefore bargained with the master of the galley, so that he and his men passed therein to Constantinople, which is a great and tumultuous city.

There was assembled such a number of people of divers nations, that there was hardly any lodging to be had; and although the Venetians had a house assigned for their use, yet would they admit no stranger under them, so that Fortunatus and his men sought long for a lodging; at last they chanced on one, such as it was, whereof the host was a thief; they continued a great while, going every day forth to see the triumphs and royalties of the emperor's court.

Fortunatus, when he went abroad, always caused his chamber door to be fast locked, supposing then all things to be safe; but the host had a privy entrance into the chamber, where the great bed was, through the ceiling, where he had taken a board out and put it in again that none might perceive it, and there entered he in and out when he listed; and when they were abroad he would search the bales

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and budgets but could find no money. Wherefore he thought it likely that they carried their money with them ſewed in doublets; for when he reckoned with them for their charges, he marked diligently from whence they took the money, and perceived that Fortunatus took it from under the table and gave it to Leopoldus, who payed the hoſt, abating nothing, for ſo he was ordered always to do. But the hoſt was not therewith content: but would alſo gladly have had both the money and the purſe.—

About this time was the day at hand wherein he had vowed, in memorial of Lady Fortune's gift, to beſtow 40 pieces of gold towards the marriage of ſome poor maiden; wherefore he aſked of the hoſt whether he knew any poor honeſt man that had a daughter marriageable, and was not able to beſtow her for want of ability; 'Such an one,' ſaid he, bring unto me, and I will beſtow largely on her to prefer her on marriage.' The hoſt ſaid, 'Of ſuch you may have plenty, and to-morrow I will bring you an honeſt man, who ſhall bring with him a modeſt and comely maiden.' This Fortunatus liked very well. But then thought the hoſt within himſelf, 'This night will I rob him of his money before he beſtows it.' So the ſame night did he convey himſelf into their chamber through the cieling, when they were all aſleep, and ſearched their clothes, ſuppoſing to have found great ſums of money in their doublets, but therein he was ſadly deceived; however, out of Leopoldus's purſe he took 40 ducats, and handled Fortunatus's purſe alſo on the outſide; but when he felt no money in it he caſt it under the bedſtead, which when he had done, he ſet open the doors and windows, as though ſome ſtrange thieves had been there.

When Leopoldus awaked and saw the windows and doors open, he rebuked the men for their negligence, but the servants being fast asleep, started up suddenly, being very much surprized, saying that they also were ignorant thereof. With that Leopoldus was greatly afraid, and looked for his purse, which he perceived to be cut off, and a piece of the string hanging yet at his girdle; then calling to Fortunatus, said, 'Our chamber is burst open, and the money which you delivered me is stolen.—Fortunatus forthwith looked to his doublet, and perceiving his *fortunate purse* to be cut away also, he was therewith so astonished, that he sunk down in a swoon. Leopoldus and the other servants not knowing of his great loss, rubbed and refreshed him, so that his spirits were revived again. As they were thus affrighted and in great perplexity, in came the host, and set a grim countenance on the matter, asking them angrily what made them so noisy; they told him they were robbed of their money; then said he, 'What careless men are ye! Have you not a close chamber with lock and key, why then did you not make all things fast and sure? They answered, 'When we went to bed we shut both the windows and locked the door; but now we find them all open.' Then said the host, 'Look that ye have not robbed one another; and there be also at this present many strangers and lusty fellows in the city, who perhaps had more skill to break into your chamber than we know of.' Howbeit when he saw them in such horrible plight, he asked Fortunatus if he had lost any great sum of money; he said, 'Not much.' Then said the host, 'Why then do you so take on and disquiet yourself for a little money; Yesterday you would have bestowed a poor man's daughter in marriage; spare now the money, and bestow

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it on yourſelf.' Then ſaid Fortunatus——'I care more for the purſe than the money; for there is in it a bill of exchange of great importance, which can profit none but myſelf.' When the hoſt ſaw that Fortunatus was ſo ſad and heavy for his purſe, (though he was a cruel and hard-hearted fellow) yet was he moved with ſome compaſſion, ſaying—'Let us ſearch narrowly about the chamber, by chance we may find it, for no thief regardeth an empty purſe.' With that every man began to ſearch, and one of them creeping under the bedſtead, found the purſe, and ſhewed it Fortunatus, who ſoon knew the ſame; yet feared greatly that by being cut it had loſt its virtue, which he ſore wanted to know, but durſt not as yet make trial in his ſight, for fear of the worſt, that if any had known the quality of the purſe, they would have murdered him for it. So then he lay down in the bed again, and privily under the covering put his hand into the purſe, and found that it ſtill retained the virtue it had before, at which he was exceeding glad.

Fortunatus, however, was but ſickly, through fear, and kept his bed all that day; Leopoldus came to comfort him, ſaying, 'Good ſir, pluck up your ſpirits and be content, we have left fair horſes, rings, and chains of gold, and other jewels; and although we have no money, we will ſell theſe things, and by God's help bring you ſafe home again; for I have often paſſed many countries without money;' for Leopoldus thought Fortunatus had riches ſufficient at home, if he might attain thither. Fortunatus anſwered faintly, 'He that loſeth goods looſeth underſtanding; wiſdom is to be choſen before riches; alſo health, ſtrength, beauty, and long life can none ſteal;' and therewith held his peace.

Leopoldus knew not what he meant by those words, neither knew he which he had chosen of all the gifts; and supposing that such sudden passions proceeded of the lightness and disturbance of his head, was no farther inquisitive to know the meaning. After a while, Fortunatus being refreshed with warm meat, his health was restored, and he began to be merry again, commanding his servants to provide candles to keep a light all night long, and that they should have their swords ready drawn by them to prevent the like attempt of thieves.

In the morning went Fortunatus with his men into the church of Sophia, and there gave to the priests ten pieces of gold, that they should, in our Lady's chapel, which was fair and sumptuous, cause a sermon to be preached, and *te Deum* to be sung. From thence went he to the place where merchants and exchangers resorted, and ordered all his men to go home to attend the horses and prepare their dinner; and he delivered to Leopoldus some money to buy five purses, saying, 'I will go to my exchanger to take up some money, of which we must not be long destitute. When Leopoldus had bought the purses, Fortunatus put in one of them 100 ducats, which he delivered to him to be disbursed upon ordinary expences. He gave also to each of his three men a purse with ten ducats therein, and said, 'Be merry and wise, take good heed that no such dangers befal unto us as hath of late happened. They all thanked him, and promised their diligent and careful service to the utmost of their power. He moreover put 400 ducats into the fifth purse, sending for the host, to whom he said—'Do I pray as I requested concerning some poor man's daughter, on whom I purpose to bestow liberally towards her marriage.' —The host said, 'I will bring unto you a man with

with his daughter, that you may see them.' With that he went to the poor man, and told him he had a rich guest that wanted to see him; 'Take,' said he, 'your daughter with you, and you shall see how well the matter will fall out for your advantage, as I trust.

CHAP. XIV.

How Fortunatus *bestowed Four Hundred Ducats on the Marriage of a poor Virgin.*

THE maiden's father was a joiner, an honest and homely fellow, who said to the host, 'I would be loth to bring my daughter any where, I care not to whom, lest she should be abused and lose her virginity, which is the chief jewel she has to make her fit for a husband; therefore tell the gentleman, if he means to do her any good, that if it please him, he may come hither to see her.' Hereat was the host displeased, and declaring his uncourteous answer, supposed that Fortunatus would be therewith offended also. But he took it in good part, and was well content, and taking Leopoldus with him, ordered the host to bring him to the man's house, to whom he said—'My host here hath given me to understand that thou hast a fair daughter, who is at woman's estate, let her come unto me with her mother.' He asked for what intent; 'Perhaps,' said Fortunatus, 'more for thy advantage than thou knowest of.'

With that the poor man called for his wife and daughter, who was ashamed of their homely apparel, especially the bashful maiden, who hovered behind her mother's back; howbeit she was both

fair and well favoured; to whom Fortunatus said—'Stand forth, fair virgin, before me, and be not ashamed.' Then asked he her father of her age, who said, 'She is full twenty years old.' Then said he, 'Why have you kept her so long unmarried?' To which the mother made speed to answer before her husband, saying—'She was tall and old enough years ago, but we wanted ability to marry her.'—Then said Fortunatus, 'If I would bestow on her a portion, could you forthwith find out a husband fit for her?' Then said the mother, 'Our neighbour hath a son who liketh her well, who, I know, only for want of wealth, would take her to be his wife.' Then asked he the maiden how she liked her neighbour's son; she answered, 'I will in no wise make my own choice, though I should die without a husband; but whom my father and mother will appoint unto me, the same will I have. With that the mother could not stay from speaking, and said, 'I know she saith not as she thinketh, and am certain she loveth him, and would fain have him before any other.

Fortunatus then sending for the young man, whom at the first he liked very well, poured out of a purse 400 ducats upon the table before them; and said to the young man, who was but thirty years old, 'Wilt thou be content to wed this maid?' And to the maid he said, 'Art thou willing to have this man for thy husband, and I am disposed to give you freely this little money for a dowry? Then answered the young man, saying—'If you be in good earnest, and will indeed perform your promise, for my part we shall soon be agreed.

The mother, without further pausing, gave her consent, and said, 'Then doth my daughter likewise agree thereto.' Then Fortunatus sent for a priest, and

and cauſed them to be married in preſence of their parents; and after it was finiſhed, he gave unto them the money which he had brought for that purpoſe. He alſo gave unto the father ten ducats more to keep the marriage feaſt; whereof they were all very glad, thanking greatly Fortunatus, and praiſing God for their good fortune, ſaying among them, 'God hath ſurely ſent this man from heaven to help the poor.'

After this they went again to their inn; but Leopoldus marvelled that his maſter was ſo liberal to give money ſo lightly, whereas before he was ſo ſad for a little money that he had loſt. The hoſt likewiſe was grieved that he could not find the purſe with the 400 ducats, when he had ſearched ſo narrowly; and therefore thought thus with himſelf—'Since he hath ſo much to give away, I muſt needs empty his purſe once again.' He therefore, knowing that they had a taper of wax burning all night, when they were all gone forth to the court, brake privily into the chamber, made holes in the taper, poured in water, and ſtopped them cloſe, that it could not be perceived; ſo that when it had burnt two or three hours, it would go out of itſelf. So much about the time as the emperor's feaſt was nigh ended, when he knew Fortunatus would depart, he determined the ſame night to rob his gueſt again; he accordingly provided for them, againſt they came from the court, the beſt wine he could get, and gave it them of his own free coſt to drink, to the intent that they ſhould ſleep the ſounder. So when they had made good cheer, and were laid down to reſt, the taper burning, and their naked ſwords lying by them, they fell into a ſound ſleep without care.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

How Leopoldus *slew the unfaithful Host at* Constantinople.

BUT the host lay waiting for his prey, and when he perceived the light to be quenched, he crept through the hole which he had made before, coming first to Leopoldus, under whose head he began to grope, upon which he awoke, and snatching up his sword, striking about in the dark, so wounded the host in the neck, that he fell dead to the ground.

Then Leopoldus called angrily to the men, and said, 'Why have you put out the light?' They answered that none of them had done it. Then he bid one of them to go quickly and fetch a light, and the rest to stand with their swords about the door; 'For,' said

ſaid he, 'let none go out, here is a thief in the chamber.' When the light came, they found the hoſt deadly wounded, lying by Leopoldus's bed-ſide. When Fortunatus ſaw that, he was more afraid than ever he was in his life, and ſaid, 'Alas! that we ever came to Conſtantinople! It is not much to be bereft of our goods, but now ſhall we be bereft of our lives alſo.' And then ſaid to Leopoldus—— 'What a heinous fact haſt thou committed in ſlaying our hoſt; if thou hadſt but wounded him, by God's help and money, we might have eſcaped.' Leopoldus anſwered—'It was dark; I knew not where nor whom I ſmote; but my intent was to ſtrike a thief, who groped under my head, and who likely hath robbed us before; therefore if the truth was known why he was ſlain, we ſhould be in danger of neither life nor goods.' Then ſaid Fortunatus, it will in no caſe be believed, if we make our hoſt a thief; for his friends will not ſuffer us to eſcape, neither will money nor reaſon help in this behalf.'

When Leopoldus ſaw his maſter and his fellow-ſervants ſo diſmayed, he ſaid unto them, 'Why ſtand you thus trembling and amazed? No ſorrow can help when a miſchief is done, neither can we revive him again; let us therefore ſpeedily deviſe and conſult together with a bold courage, how we may eſcape this preſent danger.'

Then ſaid Fortunatus, 'I cannot deviſe what is to be done; (repenting inwardly that he had not choſe wiſdom inſtead of riches) but if thou, Leopoldus, can give us any good council, perform it with ſpeed.' Leopoldus ſaid, 'Then follow me, and do as I bid you, and with God's help I will bring you all hence out of danger.' This ſpeech of Leopoldus ſomewhat revived their ſpirits.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

How Fortunatus *and his Men conveyed themſelves out of* Conſtantinople.

LEOPOLDUS, telling them to be ſilent and hide the light, took the corps on his back, and caſt it into a deep well by the ſtable, with the head downwards. It was then about midnight, ſo that nobody ſaw or heard him. Then returned he to the chamber, and ſaid, 'I have rid us of this thief, ſo that for a while none can know what is become of him. I ſuppoſe alſo that he made no one privy to his attempt; ſo that it is unlikely to be deſcryed what we have done to him; therefore be merry again, and pluck up your ſpirits.' He ſaid moreover to his ſervants, 'Go ſpeedily and prepare your horſes, with whiſtling, ſinging, and pleaſant countenances, and in any caſe look that ye ſhew not a ſorrowful countenance, and we will get off well; then as ſoon as the day doth break, we will ride away, ſo that we ſhall be ſix miles hence at leaſt before the hoſt ſhall be miſſed.' With this Fortunatus was comforted, and made a pleaſant countenance. When the horſes were ready, they called for ſack, and made all merry, with luſty and frolick demeanour; and at their departure gave unto every ſervant a ducat.

Leopoldus ſaid—'I truſt we ſhall return within a month, and make merry here again.' Then Fortunatus took his leave, and ſaid to the ſervants of the houſe, 'Thank our hoſt for his friendly entertainment, and tell him that I would have brought a cup of ſack to his bed-ſide, but that I thought reſt would be of more ſervice.' With that rode they forth towards Turkey, with all poſſible ſpeed, and took their next bait in a city called Raropia, in the Turkiſh

Turkiſh empire; in which was an officer, whoſe charge was to convoy all the ſtrange and Chriſtian merchants, and give them a paſſport through the country. Whereupon Leopoldus having former experience thereof, went preſently to the officer, and told him there were ſix pilgrims that required a ſafe conductor to ride with them. He anſwered—'You ſhall be ſafely convoyed, but I will have of each of you four crowns, and the guide muſt have a crown a day.'

Leopoldus, though he thought it over much, made not many words, but gave him the money, and the officer delivered him a paſſport in writing, and ſent with him an expert guide, who convoyed him thro' all Turkey.

Fortunatus, by this time, having abandoned all dread and care for his thieviſh hoſt, behaved himſelf chearfully, and ſo rode haſtily to the great Turk's court, and beholding there his exceeding riches, and the infinite multitude of ſoldiers that he continually maintained in garriſons, marvelled at the mightineſs and glory of his empire, and eſpecially to ſee ſo many mamelukes and enemies to the Chriſtian religion, which he greatly diſliked; therefore he ſtaid not long there, but went from thence to the Great Walachia, where Tracola Waidia was ruler, and ſo came to the kingdom of Boſnia, from Boſnia orderly through Croutia, Dalmatia, the city of Buda in Hungary, from Buda to Cracovia in Poland; and ſo to Copenhagen in Denmark, to Stockholm in Sweeden, to Bergen in Norway, to Prague in Bohemia, and ſo the next way through the dukedom of Saxony to to Frankenland, and then to Augſburg; there met he certain merchants, and accompanied them to Venice, paying all their charges. Fortunatus had regiſtered in a book the names, uſages, religions, and the

the courtly demeanours, of all those countries, cities, emperors, kings, and people, by whom he had travelled.

During the time he stayed at Venice, he laid wait for the fairest jewels that could be gotten, not sticking for the price, were it never so great; whereby he was highly esteemed among them.

He remembering in what poverty he had left his father and mother, when he departed from Famagosta, bought much fair cloth, velvet, and silks for their apparel, and costly household furniture of every sort double; he also bought a ship to convey all his goods into Cyprus. It was now the sixteenth year since he departed, and when he came to Famagosta, it was told him that his father and mother were dead long since, whereof he was very sorry.

He then hired a large house, wherein he bestowed his goods, and entertained many more men servants and maidens for all purposes, and from thenceforth maintained most sumptuous hospitality, that of every man he was had in great estimation. Howbeit many mused and marvelled how he had obtained such wealth; whereas most knew that he departed in extreme poverty.

CHAP. XVII.

How the King of Cyprus *made a Marriage between* Fortunatus *and the Lord* Nemian's *youngest Daughter.*

AS soon as he could he purchased his father's house, and many more thereto adjoining, all which he had pulled down, and in that place built a good large palace, after the most elegant manner, like

like those he had seen in other countries. And by the house also he founded a sumptuous church, and twelve more houses for twelve priests, to continue in divine service of God, as it were a chauntry; for the revenues of which he allotted yearly 1400 ducats; that is, for every priest 100, and the other 200 for repaing and ornamenting the church. He caused moreover to be made in the minster three tombs, one for his father, one for his mother, whose bones he caused to be dug up and buried therein, and the third he reserved for himself and his heirs.

When all things were finished to his mind, he purposed to take a wife, which when the nobility and gentry of Cyprus understood, every one who had a fair daughter set her forth to the utmost shew, by training them with good behaviour, and trimming them in comely and gorgeous attire; but amongst them, not far from Famagosta, dwelt an earl, named Nemian, who had three daughters, who were passing fair, whom the king counselled to bestow one of them on Fortunatus, if he might, and offered himself to break the matter, if the earl was so content. Now the earl, though he was not very rich, seemed at first to make slight of Fortunatus, saying to the king—'If he should be a suitor to any of my daughters would your majesty advise me to give my consent? for we know he hath no lands nor yearly revenues, and perhaps he had great sums of money, we see how he hath bestowed it in sumptuous building, of which he hath no profit. And albeit he hath sufficient store yet left, money is casual, and may be soon consumed and lost, and become to be in poverty at the end, as his father did, who sometime was exceeding rich and puissant.' Then said the king to the earl, 'I have been certified by them who have seen it, that he hath as many precious jewels as

would buy an earldom, and yet will ſell none of them; I hear alſo, that he hath travelled through many nations, whereby it is to be ſuppoſed that he would not have built ſuch a gorgeous palace, and a chauntry, which he ſo hath endowed with perpetual rents, except he well knew how to maintain an eſtate agreeable; and therefore, if you will do by my counſel, you ſhall, now he is diſpoſed to marry, offer unto him one of your daughters. And if you are agreeable I myſelf will be diligent in firſt mentioning the matter, not doubting to bring it to paſs; for Fortunatus I know will do much at my requeſt; and indeed I had rather he ſhould match in a noble kindred than with one of a meaner ſort; being alſo unfit, as to me it ſeemeth, that one of a baſe lineage ſhould poſſeſs that fair palace, and dwell therein.'— The earl underſtanding that Fortunatus was greatly in the king's favour, ſaid—'Foraſmuch as I perceive it is your majeſty's pleaſure that I ſhould give one of my daughters to Fortunatus, therein I give your majeſty full power, both of her and my goods.'— Then ſaid the king; 'Lord Nemain, ſend your three daughters to my wife, the queen, and I will cauſe them to be gorgeouſly attired, and hope that one of them ſhall pleaſe him; howbeit I will give him the choice to which he beſt fancieth; I will moreover beſtow all the charge of the wedding feaſt, and look what he requireth more, that will I perform, for that thou haſt frankly committed both body and goods unto me.' The earl humbly thanked his majeſty, and ſo taking his leave, went home, and declared to the counteſs, his wife, all the matter, as it was decreed between the king and him.

The counteſs liked their agreement well, ſave only that Fortunatus was not noble enough of birth, and that ſhe was loth he ſhould have his free choice;

for

for ſhe loved one of them above the reſt, whereof ſhe would in no wiſe make the earl privy; however ſhe agreed to his will: whereupon ſhe dreſſed them richly, and appointing a motherly gentlewoman to be their guide, with an equipage ſuitable to their grandeur, they were ſent to court; where they were honourably received. When the king thought it convenient, he ſent a meſſage to Fortunatus, that he ſhould come to court. And albeit he was not certified for what cauſe he was ſent for, yet ſuppoſing it was for no ill intent, he ſpeedily prepared himſelf, and rode to the king, by whom he was freely entertained.

Then ſaid the king unto him, 'Fortunatus, thou art my ſubject, and I am well perſuaded of thee, that thou wilt have reſpect unto my counſel, for that I would be loth to wiſh you any evil. I am informed that thou haſt built a goodly houſe, and erected a church with a chauntry, and that thou art now minded to marry a wife; wherefore I fearing leſt thou ſhouldeſt take one whom I ſhould not well like of, I have bethought me of a wife for thee, by whom the worthieſt of thy lineage ſhall be advanced.'—— Fortunatus anſwered, ſaying, 'Gracious lord, it is true, I am diſpoſed to marry, and meant to have eſpied out a wife to my liking; foraſmuch as I now perceive that your grace will vouchſafe ſo far to debaſe your royal eſtate, as to provide ſo favourably for me, I will ſeek no farther, but would gladly put my whole truſt and confidence in your majeſty's aſſignment.' When he had this anſwer of Fortunatus, and was alſo aſſured of the earl's conſent, who had committed to him his three daughters, he thought a marriage here was eaſy to be made, and ſaid to Fortunatus as follows—

'I have in my court three fair ladies, who are all sisters; the eldest is eighteen years of age, named Germana; the second is seventeen years old, named Marcepia; the third lacketh four years of the second, whose name is Cassandra. I will admit thee of these three to take thy choice, therefore advise thee whether thou wilt see them together, or one after another.'

Fortunatus made no long deliberation but said—'My Sovereign lord, since your grace granted me such free choice, I require of your majesty that I may see them all three together, and hear each of them speak.'

The king granted his request, and sent word to the queen, that she should cause her three ladies to be trimmed in the best attire, for that he was coming thither, and should bring a guest with him. When the king thought all things were ready, he would have taken Fortunatus alone with him, who intreated the king, saying—'If it please your grace, suffer this old servant to go with me.' The king granted his request; so they took Leopoldus with them, and then went into the chamber where the ladies were.

CHAP. XVIII.

How Fortunatus *chose the youngest of the three Sisters, named* Cassandra, *for his Wife.*

THE king then sitting down, with Fortunatus standing by him, called the three virgins before him. They reverently kneeling before him, he willed them to stand up, and said first to the eldest—'Tell me, Germana, hadst thou rather remain with

the queen, or with thy father and mother?' She answered—' My sovereign lord, it is not meet for me to answer that question, and though I might chuse, yet would I not follow my own fancy; but what your grace and my lord and father do command, the same ought I to obey.' Then said he to the second—— ' Tell me, Mareepia, which thou loveſt beſt, thy father or thy mother?' She answered, ' Let your grace pardon me, for it is not fit to give you my reſolution to this demand. I love them both well, and with all my heart; if I loved one better than the other, I would be ſorry my heart ſhould know it, and aſhamed my mouth ſhould confeſs it, for I have found as much natural love and friendſhip, as a daughter might look for of her parents.' Then moved the king the youngeſt to ſpeak, ſaying—— ' Anſwer me, Caſſandra, unfeignedly in this queſtion—If there were here in our court a noble company preparing to dance, your father and mother ſtanding by, if one of them ſay, Stand forth and dance with them, and the other ſhould bid you ſtep aſide, and not appear among them, whoſe command would you obey?' She replied—' Let not your majeſty be offended, your grace knoweth that I am but young, and that wit cometh not before age. Your majeſty may alſo conſider the affections and deſires of youth, therefore it is not for me to diſcloſe my unknown determination in this doubt; for if I obey the one, I muſt needs diſpleaſe the other, which I were very loth to do.' But yet urged the king further, aſking—' If either of them muſt needs be do.e, whom had you rather pleaſe?' Then ſaid Caſſandra—' May it pleaſe your highneſs to grant unto me a year and a day to deliberate of this queſtion, that I may aſk counſel of thoſe that are wiſer than I am, to give you an anſwer.'

The king then went aside to another chamber with Fortunatus, and said unto him, Thy desire was to see these three ladies and to hear them speak, which I have shewn thee to the utmost; now therefore determine with thyself which of them thou thinkest meet to be thy spouse. Fortunatus answered—I like them so well, my liege, that I cannot so suddenly say which I may chuse; wherefore I beseech your majesty to grant me but a little space to consule with my old and trusty servant Leopoldus therein. The king was well content therewith, and so let him depart aside to deliberate on the matter.

When Fortunatus had determined with himself, he went again to the king, and said, My sove-

reign lord and king, I give you to understand, that by your favour and licence, I have chosen Cassandra

the

the youngeſt to be my ſpouſe, if ſo it like your majeſty to grant me.' The king ſaid, thy requeſt is granted;' and ſo ſent preſently for the queen to bring Caſſandra with her. When the queen and Caſſandra were come, the king ſent for a prelate, and cauſed them to be married inſtantly, wherewith Caſſandra was very well content, for that ſhe was ſo ſuddenly wedded without the conſent or preſence of her parents; howbeit the king would needs have it ſo.

When the wedding was finiſhed, the bride's ſiſters, with many other ladies and virgins, with courteous ſalutations, wiſhed unto her good luck; but yet the two ſiſters wept bitterly. Fortunatus demanding the cauſe of their mourning, comforted them, ſaying,—'Be of good cheer, lament not at your ſiſter's fortune, leſt you be ſuſpected of envious diſdain, rather than be commended for natural kindneſs; hope the beſt, and I will, ere long, ſomewhat eaſe you of your ſorrow.' With that he forthwith ſent to Famagoſta for the jewels that he bought at Venice, and gave two of the beſt to the king and queen, and to the bride and her two ſiſters each of them one, which were alſo very ſumptuous, and to every one of the queen's waiting ladies he gave a precious jewel alſo, for which they all greatly thanked him, and marvelled at his wonderful liberality.

The king then ſent for the Earl Nemian, and the counteſs his wife. Fortunatus hearing thereof, ſent Leopoldus with the meſſengers, and delivered to him 1000 Ducats to give unto the counteſs, with this compliment, that her daughter's huſband had ſent her that preſent, that ſhe might come with chearfulneſs to the wedding feaſt of Caſſandra. The counteſs at firſt was diſpleaſed that Fortunatus had choſen the youngeſt, whom ſhe loved moſt; but when

when Leopoldus had delivered his meſſage, and gave her the money, ſhe was well pacified: ſo that ſhe and the earl dreſſed themſelves glorioufly, and went to the court, where they were received very graciouſly. Their lodging alſo was prepared exceedingly ſumptuous, and of all kind of delicate fare they had great plenty; inſomuch that the earl ſaid to his lady, 'So often as we have been to this court, ſuch honour was never done us before; wherefore ſince our king is become ſo gracious to us, and hath ordained ſuch a puiſſant huſband for our daughter, we are bound to render thanks to heaven.'

When they were all together the king ſaid unto Fortunatus, 'Now remaineth only the wedding-feaſt to be ordained, which I mean to have kept in my own palace.' Then ſaid Fortunatus, 'May it pleaſe your grace to grant me ſo much, as that I may ſolemnize the ſame at Famagoſta, at my new houſe, wherein was never yet any triumphant paſtime.'—The king ſaid, 'Not ſo; leſt the Lord Nemian ſhould be overmuch charged.' Fortunatus then replied again, ſaying—'No coſt, be it ever ſo great, ſhall neither grudge nor grieve me; therefore I beſeech your majeſty to honour my feaſt with your own perſon, and her majeſty's, and all the noble retinue of your court; and though, perhaps, my entertainment may not be worthy in all reſpects of ſuch princely and noble perſonages, yet nothing neceſſary ſhall be wanting that money can procure.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

How the King and Queen of Cyprus *accompanied the fair* Caſſandra *to* Fortunatus's *Houſe, where they were bountifully feaſted.*

WHEN the king heard Fortunatus make ſuch a bountiful and magnificent proffer, he thought to himſelf, 'I would gladly ſee his behaviour:' and ſaid unto him, 'Be it as thou haſt requeſted; and ride home before to make preparation, and I will come with the queen, thy father and mother in law, thy ſpouſe, and all our retinue.' Fortunatus was glad thereof, thanked the king, and ſaid, 'Your grace need not long be abſent, for in three days I ſhall be ready for your coming.' So he rode forth-

with to Famagoſta, and there provided a magnificent entertainment. After the fourth day, the king came to Fortunatus's houſe, with no ſmall number of nobles;

bles; where, at their entrance, they were triumphantly received with ſundry kinds of melody and muſical harmony, with many pleaſant ſhews to delight their ſenſes.

The houſe was nobly built, and ſo richly furniſhed, that it was moſt glorious to behold. Thus they continued the whole day and part of the night, with feaſting, banquetting, and dancing, after the moſt ſumptuous manner that might be deviſed, until Fortunatus and Caſſandra were brought to their chamber; and in like manner continued for fourteen days after.

But notwithſtanding, the counteſs, the bride's mother, had ſeen his royalty, and all things ſo ſumptuouſly accompliſhed, yet was ſhe not fully ſatisfied becauſe Fortunatus had no rent or yearly revenues, and ſo ſignified unto her huſband, the earl, who ſaid—— 'Trouble not yourſelf therewith, for there is no doubt but that he will ſufficiently provide for your daughter.

On the next day, when the king, the earl, and the counteſs had requeſted him to aſſign ſome certain dowry unto Caſſandra, what caſualty ſoever might befal; then ſaid Fortunatus, 'I have neither land, lordſhip, nor yearly revenue; but I will give to her 5000 ducats in ready money, wherewith I will put to you, my lord and father, in truſt, to purchaſe for her ſome manor houſe with lands, where you and ſhe ſhall think moſt convenient.' Then ſaid the king, 'I know well how to do in this matter. Here is the Earl of Legorn, who is forced of neceſſity to ſell a parcel of eſtate for ready money. He hath a caſtle and a town three miles hence, called Larganenbo at the rainbow; the ſame you may buy of him, with the title that he hath both of the land and of the people.'

They

They then ſent for the earl, who was contented to bargain with them for 70 o ducats. Fortunatus therefore, without delay, told out the money, and the Earl of Legorn concluded with him to yield up all his right, title, intereſt, and juriſdiction he had in or to the county, caſtle, and town of Legorn, unto Caſſandra, and never to make more challenge thereto. When this matter was fully accompliſhed the counteſs was pleaſed.

CHAP. XX.

How Fortunatus *had by his Wife two Sons,* Ampedo *and* Andolocia.

FORTUNATUS and Caſſandra his wife, now lived in joyful and happy eſtate, wanting nothing but children; for he knew that the virtue of his purſe would end after his deceaſe, if he had no lawful heirs of his body; though he made not his wife privy thereto, but prayed daily together that God would make them fruitful; inſomuch that the Lord hearing their requeſts, Caſſandra conceived and brought forth a ſon, whom they baptized with the name of Ampedo. Shortly after ſhe conceived with child again, and brought forth another ſon, which they had chriſtened by the name of Andolocia.

Thus Fortunatus was not a little joyful that he had now two fair and well proportioned children, whom he and his ſpouſe trained up carefully and loved tenderly, but Andolocia was of ſtouter courage than Ampedo, as it afterwards appeared; and although Fortunatus would gladly have had more children by Caſſandra, eſpecially a daughter or two,

yet

yet from thenceforward ſhe conceived no more by him. Much about this time Leopoldus died with great age.

CHAP XXI.

How Fortunatus *would travel, and how he departed from* Cyprus *again to viſit more ſtrange Countries.*

FORTUNATUS having now lived joyfully with Caſſandra twelve years, and thinking within himſelf that it was unlikely he ſhould have any more children, it ſeemed irkſome to him to abide at Famagoſta, though he there wanted no pleaſure or recreation; but purpoſed to travel; and ſhortly after took leave of his wife and ſons, and deſiring God to bleſs them all, embarked in a ſhip of his own, and ſailed to Alexandria; where, when they had licence to come on ſhore, they were aſked who was lord of that ſhip; they anſwered, that Fortunatus of Famagoſta in the Iſle of Cyprus was the only owner thereof; then they required Fortuatus to be brought into the king's preſence, to preſent a gift unto him; for ſuch was the cuſtom, that every merchant, at his arrival at Alexandria, ſhould give ſome preſent unto the ſoldan; wherefore the courtiers were diligent to bring him unto the court; where he willed a cupboard to be prepared, and therein he ſet many fair and coſtly jewels for the king to behold. When the Soldan came forth and beheld them, he marvelled, ſuppoſing they were brought to be ſold; and thereupon enquiring the price of them, Fortunatus aſked the Soldan if he liked them. He anſwered—'I have hardly ever ſeen finer; therefore I cannot but like them well.' Then Fortunatus requeſted that he would

would accept of them, for he would freely give them all unto him. When the ſoldan heard that, he marvelled that one merchant ſhould preſent him with ſuch a rich gift; for he eſteemed them worth 5000 ducats, which he thought was a ſufficient preſent for the commonalty and mart of a whole city, ſuch as Venice, Florence, or Genoa. Howbeit he would not refuſe them, but accepted it for a gift; recompencing him with an hundred barrels of pepper, which amounted to the value of the jewels.

When the factors of Venice, Florence, Genoa, and Catalonia, who were then at Alexandria, had heard that the ſoldan had given unto Fortunatus ſuch a reward; foraſmuch as they, abiding there continually, brought gifts to the ſoldan, and yet none of them at any time received any reward, great or ſmall, they envied him: beſides that he bought all the beſt merchandize, not ſticking at any price; wherefore they, fearing their hindrance, ſought to bring Fortunatus in diſpleaſure with the ſoldan, giving unto the lord admiral great gifts, to the end he might conceive the worſt of Fortunatus, and ſo to diſcredit him to the ſoldan. But Fortunatus having intelligence thereof, gave unto him privily ſo much more than they: this fell out well for the admiral, who took money of both parties, and yet did what he thought good, and was nevertheleſs friendly to Fortunatus, wiſhing that more ſuch would come unto Alexandria.

After having been there certain days, behaving himſelf very honorably, the ſoldan invited Fortunatus and the chief perſons of the ſhip to dinner, giving them very grand entertainment, which grieved the merchants greatly. Soon after the admiral did in like manner feaſt them; and then did the merchants plainly perceive that their gifts were beſtowed ill

in vain, for which they inwardly fretted. When the time drew near that the ſhip muſt needs depart, (for the cuſtom was that no ſhip might ſtay at Alexandria above ſix weeks, whether he had ſold or no) Fortunatus had appointed another patron over his ſhip in his ſtead, whom he charged to ſail with his merchandize to Catalonia, Portugal, Flanders, and England, and to augment his ſtock by exchange of wares at all theſe coaſts. He alſo charged him, that after two years he ſhould return again with the ſhip to Alexandria; for in the mean time he propoſed to ſee many ſtrange countries, and at the two years end would there meet him again; but if they found him not there to take no account that he were alive, then they ſhould return to Famagoſta, and there deliver the ſhip and goods into the poſſeſſion of his wife and children; which command of his the patron faithfully promiſing to accompliſh, took his leave and departed.

CHAP. XXII.

How Fortunatus *departed to travel towards the* Indies *and many other ſtrange Countries, and at laſt returned to* Alexandria.

FORTUNATUS forthwith made requeſt unto the admiral, that he would procure him of the ſoldan a paſſport, a guide, and letters of commendation to thoſe princes and monarchs to whom he minded to travel. The admiral accompliſhed his requeſt in all reſpects, and immediately he furniſhed himſelf and all that ſhould accompany him with all things neceſſary and expedient at his own charge, and ſo made his firſt journey through the land of Per-

Perſia; from thence he paſſed through the dominions of the great Cham of Cathay, and ſo through the deſert, and came to the court of Preſtor John, who had under him, both of the iſles and firm land, ſeventy-two kings: every one of the countries is full of people, fair cities, and ſtrong holds. Then Fortunatus gave unto Preſtor John many coſtly jewels and preſents, ſuch as were rare and ſtrange in thoſe countries. He gave alſo many gifts unto the gentlemen of the privy chamber, and ſuch as were in authority, requeſting them to aſſiſt and further him, that he might take certain men, and have the king's letters to addreſs him to Calicuta, where the beſt pepper groweth like unto grapes, and the men of the country go all naked.

Fortunatus not able, for parching heat, to travel any farther that way; and now remembering his wife and children, longed to be at Famagoſta, and ſo returning a contrary way homeward, through many other ſtrange countries, until he came to the city of Lamece, and there bought camels for himſelf and men, on which they rode through the deſert of Jeruſalem, to ſee the holy monuments of our Saviour's paſſion.

The time when as he appointed to be again at Alexandria was at hand within two months, wherefore he took ſhipping to ſhorten his journey, and made haſte away, until he arrived again at Alexandria; where he went preſently to the ſoldan, thanking him and the lord admiral highly for their letters; by means whereof he was entertained very honourably, when they underſtood that he had ſo manly behaved himſelf, and had ſeen ſo many ſtrange countries.

When Fortunatus had been now eight days at Alexandria, having there with him many ſtrange

beasts, and other rare novelties, he longed greatly for the ship that he might set forward to Famagosta. In the mean time was the ship arrived, laden with so many valuables, that she was thrice better in value than when she departed: the men also brought letters from Cassandra, signifying that she and her children were in good health, wanting only his presence; he therefore ordered his merchants to make a speedy sale, and to afford their wares cheaper than usual; and in so doing they dispatched all their business in six weeks, whereas other ships do scarce make their mart in six weeks; then Fortunatus would have taken his leave and departed, but the soldan requested him to stay with him that night before he departed, which he could not refuse, but ordered his men to go on board, and to launch out the ship from the haven into the sea, appointing to come to them presently after supper, and to depart; in the mean while went Fortunatus with the admiral unto the soldan's palace, where he was worthily entertained.

The soldan then communed with Fortunatus concerning his affairs and success in strange nations, which he uttered at large, thanking him again for his letters of address, saying that by them he was greatly furthered, and the more accepted of the strange princes.

By this time was the supper ready, and the soldan sat at the table, Fortunatus being over against him, where they were served with all kinds of delicate fare, as was convenient for such a mighty prince.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIII.

How Fortunatus *gave great Gifts to the Soldan's Houſhold Servants—and how the Soldan ſhewed him his Treaſure and his Wiſhing-Hat, which* Fortunatus *carried away.*

WHEN ſupper was ended, Fortunatus deſired leave to beſtow his benevolence on the houſhold, which the ſoldan granting, he opened his purſe privily under the table; and when he had given to every man in the houſe a large gift, the ſoldan marvelled with himſelf how he could bear ſo much gold about him unperceived, eſteemed it a great honour done unto him, that he had been ſo liberal unto his ſervants, ſaying—'Right courteous gentleman, this your bountiful behaviour and liberal diſburſing towards me and mine, deſerveth no ſmall commendation and recompence; come therefore with me, and I will ſhew you that before you go, which few or none doth know but myſelf, and the like whereof thou never ſaw.'

The ſoldan then brought him into a ſtrong tower paved all with marble ſtone; in the firſt room whereof were a great number of jewels, and veſſels of ſilver, and huge heaps of ſilver coins; in the ſecond were many veſſels and houſhold implements of gold, and many great cheſts full of golden coin; within that was a great wardrobe full of many coſtly jewels and gorgeous garments, beautified with precious ſtones of all ſorts; there was alſo two golden candleſticks, upon which ſtood two orient and great carbuncles, which ſhone in the night all over the chamber.

Fortunatus was rapped with great admiration to behold this infinite treasure, praising it greatly; then said the soldan, 'I have yet a jewel in my chamber which I esteem more than all those which you have seen.' Then the soldan shewed him to his bed chamber, which was sumptuously adorned, having a prospect unto the main sea, and there opening a closet, brought forth a plain felt hat, base and simple to behold, saying—'I get more by this hat than by all the precious jewels that I possess; for, if I had no jewels, money would get them, but such a hat is not to be had.' Then said Fortunatus—'If it so please your majesty I would gladly know what power and virtue consists in this hat?' The soldan said—'It hath this quality—Whosoever hath it on his head, where he wisheth then to be, he is in a minute carried thither; so that with the same I have more pleasure than with all my jewels; for when my men go forth to hunt, and I long to be with them, setting my hat on my head, where the best game is to be seen, I am suddenly there: and where the deer resteth I can be with them as I list, to drive them to the hunter's hand. In the time of war also, I can be with my soldiers when I list, and in my palace again with a wish, which all my jewels cannot.'

Then demanded Fortunatus, if he that made that hat was yet alive; the king said—'Of that I am uncertain.' Then thought Fortunatus in his mind, 'How well would this hat suit with the purse!' And said unto the soldan—'Since that hat hath such virtue, it should seem very heavy on his head that weareth it.' The soldan said it was no heavier than another hat, and therewith bid him put it on his head, asking him whether he felt it otherwise; Fortunatus said—'Verily I did not think it had been so light; neither did I suppose that your majesty would be so un-

unadviſed to ſet it on my head.' With that he ſuddenly wiſhed himſelf in his ſhip, ordering them ſpeedily to hoiſt the ſails, and ſo having a freſh gale of wind, they ſailed ſwiftly away.

When the ſoldan ſaw he was thus deceived of an incomparable jewel, he perceived alſo at the window that the ſhip was under full ſail, he in great rage commanded of his men to ſet after him and bring him back priſoner, threatening to him a cruel death. But before they could be ready, Fortunatus's ſhip was out of ſight, ſo that his meſſengers returned, at which the ſoldan was ſorry.

The ſoldan being thus in a great agony for his hat, would gladly have deviſed how to obtain it again, but knew not how to attempt the matter.

To ſend his admiral or any of his heathen lords among the Chriſtians, he thought it both dangerous and little available; he therefore thought it beſt to ſend the captain of the Chriſtians on this embaſſage unto Cyprus, to deal by way of entreaty; whereupon he called the captain unto him, who was a Venetian, named Mercholandus, requeſting him to accompliſh an embaſſage faithfully unto Fortunatus, That he would vouchſafe, of courteſy to let him have his hat again, ſince he ſhewed it him upon truſt, he would thankfully accept it, and would ſend his ſhip loaden with all ſorts of coſtly ſpices; but if he would not be ſo intreated, he ſhould make his complaint to the king of Cyprus, deſiring him to force Fortunatus to ſend the jewel which he had ſo unfaithfully carried from him; the captain promiſed to do his meſſage truly.

Whereupon the ſoldan cauſed to be built for him a fair ſtrong ſhip, well manned with Chriſtian ſailors, in all points ſufficiently accoutred, promiſing unto him rich rewards if he ſhould bring the hat again.

But

But the ſoldan was ſo diſmayed that he could take no reſt, whereat his ſervitors were very ſorry, who praiſed Fortunatus highly when he dealt ſo liberally with them, but when he had thus diſquieted their ſoldan, they all ſaid, he is the naughtieſt man that ever lived.

CHAP. XXIV.

How the Soldan's Ambaſſador could not obtain the Hat of Fortunatus.

MERCHOLANDUS, being arrived in Cyprus, came to Famagoſta, where Fortunatus was come home ten days before. But how joyfully he and his company were received by Caſſandra, his two children, and the city, it were tedious to report; for there many citizens alſo, whoſe friends were landed with Fortunatus, that had travelled with him, which mirth and joy Mercholandus well perceived. When Fortunatus underſtood that an ambaſſador was come from the ſoldan to Famagoſta, he eaſily thought what his errand was; howbeit he cauſed a lodging to be provided for him, and every thing neceſſary, all at his own expence.

When Mercholandus had been now three days in Famagoſta, he ſent word to Fortunatus that he had a meſſage to deliver to him. Fortunatus ordered him to come unto his palace, where he delivered his meſſage, ſaying—

'The king ſoldan of Babylon, Lord of Alcairo and Alexandria, ſendeth his greeting to thee Fortunatus, by me Mercholandus, requiring that thou wilt vouchſafe to let me be a meſſenger, and ſend his jewel

jewel to him again by me.' Fortunatus anſwered in a ſcoffing manner, ſaying—'I marvel that the ſoldan was ſo uncircumſpect to tell me the virtue of the hat, and alſo himſelf to ſet the ſame on my head, by which occaſion I was in ſuch danger, that it will never be out of my remembrance ſo long as I live; for my ſhip being under way at ſea, and upon my ſaying, I wiſh myſelf therein, if it had failed in the way, I had been drowned, and ſo have loſt my life, which I eſteem more than all the ſoldan's kingdoms; and therefore am I minded not to part from the jewel while I live.'

When Mercholandus heard his anſwer, he thought by fair intreaty to perſuade him. Wherefore he ſaid unto him—'Fortunatus, be not ſo hard-hearted, but be adviſed by reaſon and counſel: What profit can ye make by the jewel? I will warrant you an hundred times the value of that felt hat, whereof if I had a ſackful, and each of them had the virtue that hath, I would give them all for the third part of what I ſhall procure thee for the ſame; wherefore let me ſpeed, I beſeech you, of my meſſage, and I will promiſe you that the ſoldan will lade your ſhip with the fineſt ſpices, pepper, ginger, cloves, nutmegs, and cinnamon, and ſuch like, which may be worth 100,000 ducats: beſides that it is granted you not to yield the hat before you have the ſaid ſpices delivered into your hands; therefore if it pleaſe you on this condition to agree, I will myſelf go with your ſhip to Alexandria, and bring it home unto you laden, truſting to you that when I have brought that I have promiſed, you will likewiſe yield over unto the ſoldan his jewel again.'

Fortunatus anſwered, ſaying—'I would fain be in the king's friendſhip, and in yours alſo, but let no

no man perſuade himſelf that he ſhall get the hat out of my hands ſo long as life endureth.'

Upon theſe words Mercholandus truſted no more to entreaty, but wrathful departed to the king of Cyprus, to whom he made his complaint, requeſting him to enforce Fortunatus, his ſubject, to reſtore again to the ſoldan the jewel which he had moſt deceitfully gotten and now wrongfully detained, ſaying, that if it were not by fair means reſtored, great wars were like thereof to enſue.

The king ſaid again to Mercholandus—'I have princes and lords in the kingdom, whom though I command, they will do what they liſt; but if your king has any juſt complaint or quarrel againſt Fortunatus, let him deal with him as he thinketh good; for I would have juſtice as he deſerves.'

Mercholandus then ſuppoſing the heathen in Cyprus to have but ſlender juſtice, returned to Famagoſta, there to take ſhipping and depart; but Fortunatus, notwithſtanding, at his return, had him to dinner, entertained him ſumptuouſly. He gave alſo unto him many goodly jewels, and freighted his ſhip with ſufficient victuals, at his own charge, ſaying unto him—'Have me commended unto the ſoldan, and tell him, that if he had ſuch a hat of mine in like manner, I ſuppoſe he would not ſend it me again, neither would his counſel perſuade him ſo to do; likewiſe I am adviſed by my friends and my own reaſon not to part with it, ſo long as I can keep it.'

Then Mercholandus thanked Fortunatus for his courteous entertainment, and his coſtly gifts, ſaying, he would ſo ſignify to the ſoldan, and departed ſorrowful for his cold ſuit.

Fortunatus having now paſſed over moſt part of the world, and wanting almoſt no earthly commodity that

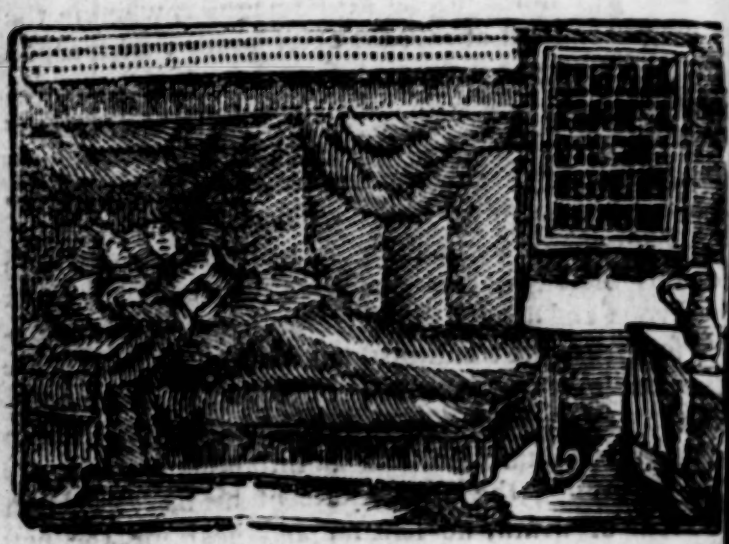
that man might wiſh, began to render the advancement of his own and his children's eſtates; maintaining a princely port, procured maſters and men of faculties to inſtruct his children, eſpecially in learning, and feats of chivalry, whereto the youngeſt was moſt inclined, behaving himſelf manfully, for which cauſe Fortunatus beſtowed many jewels, for which was much juſting at Famagoſta, wherein the youngeſt ſon had always the chief praiſe; whereupon the common people would ſay, that Andolocia did honour to the whole country. Fortunatus therefore rejoiced, and paſſing his days in great ſolace, with the paſtime and pleaſure he received from the hat, and from hawking with his wife and ſons.

When thus they had for many years enjoyed all earthly bleſſings, fair Caſſandra was troubled by a grievous and deadly ſickneſs, to yield up her immortal ſoul from the tranſitory and corruptible body were it never ſo dear; wherefore Fortunatus alſo conceived ſuch an inward thought that he languiſhed with a deadly conſumption, and an impoſtumation in the head. When the feeble ſtate of his body put him in fear of death, he ſent far and near for the beſt phyſicians that might be had; but they only prolonged his life for a ſmall time, and could not give him any hopes of a recovery.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXV.

How Fortunatus, *on his Death Bed, declared unto his Sons the Virtues of the Purse and Hat.*



FORTUNATUS therefore perceiving no amendment, but rather that death approached, sent for his two sons, Ampedo and Andolocia, saying to them—

'My dear children, your mother that so carefully trained you up is departed out of this world; and I likewise feel, by the feebleness of my tormented body, that death is near at hand; therefore I will shew ye how ye may continue in honor and wealth as I have done until my dying day.' With that he declared unto them the virtue of the purse, and, tha

it ſhould laſt no longer than their two lives: and alſo told them the virtue of the hat, and how much the ſoldan would give for it. He commanded alſo that they ſhould not part the jewels, but uſe them in common, live friendly together; neither that they ſhould make any perſon privy to the virtues of them, were he or ſhe never ſo well beloved of them—— 'For,' ſaid he, 'ſo have I concealed it theſe forty years, and never uttered it, ſave now to you only.' With that he ceaſed ſpeaking and gave up the ghoſt, and his ſons cauſed him to be honourably buried in the minſter which he had erected.

Ampedo and Andolocia having now left off all kind of martial exerciſe, and mourned twelve months for the death of their father. Andolocia having read over his father's books, wherein was regiſtered in how many nations he had travelled was therewith greatly delighted, and earneſtly moved to do the like; wherefore he ſaid unto to Ampedo—'My dear brother, that we may not paſs theſe our luſty and youthful days together in vanity, idleneſs, and obſcure behaviour, let us travel into ſtrange countries to get experience, and purchaſe honour, as our father hath done; a memorial whereof he hath left us in writing, which I greatly delight to read.'

Ampedo replied, 'Let him wander that is diſpoſed, for I mean not leſt I ſhould come to many a place where I ſhould wiſh to be at home again; ſo that I am determined to remain here at Famagoſta, and to end my life in this fair palace.'

Then ſaid Andolocia, 'Since you are ſo minded let us part the jewels. Ampedo ſaid, 'Wilt thou ſo tranſgreſs our father's commandment?—Knoweſt thou not that by his laſt will, he charged us that we ſhould not divide them?' Andolocia ſaid,

'What need we care for that? He is dead, therefore we mean to part company let us divide them.'

Then ſaid Ampedo, 'Take the hat for thy ſhare, and go whither thou wilt.' Andolocia ſaid, 'Take the hat thyſelf, and abide here.' Thus when they could not agree; for that they both deſired the purſe, Andolocia ſaid, 'Good brother, then I pray you hearken to my counſel, which ſhall be indifferent for us both—We will fill two coffers full of gold, wherewith thou ſpending at thy pleaſure, mayeſt live merrily, and thou ſhalt have the hat alſo to make thee paſtime, and let me only have the purſe for ſix years alſo. Thus ſhall we not break our father's will.' Ampedo thinking this to be a reaſonable demand, conſented thereto.

CHAP. XXVI.

How Andolocia, *having the Purſe, went well attired* French *King's Court.*

WHEN Andolocia had the purſe he attired himſelf gorgeouſly, and entertained forty tall and comely men, whom he apparelled at his own coſt after the braveſt manner; and taking leave of his brother, he departed in a ſhip of his own, and ſailed towards France till he came to Aquamorte, where he went on land, and paſſed to the French king's court, where he was well entertained; for he maintained his eſtate as ſumptuouſly as the beſt of them: wherefore he was had in great eſteem with every man; attending alſo daily on the king, as if he had beeen an ordinary ſervant.

In

In the mean time it befel that a challenge was made by certain lords and gentlemen to juſt, wreſtle, and leap with one another. At theſe games Andolocia advanced himſelf to try his force, wherein he excelled them all. And in the evening, when the lords and ladies ſhould dance before the king, he was alſo called and preferred to dance with them, wherein likewiſe he behaved himſelf ſo well, and with ſuch a comely grace, that the gentlewomen had him in great favour, delighting to paſs the time in his company, whereof he was glad, yielding pleaſant converſation.

After the revels a banquet was ordained, whereto the king had invited Andolocia; and as he ſat at the table, it chanced that he was ſuddenly in love with a fair gentlewoman, whoſe huſband was moſt familiar with him of all the others in the court; as ſoon, therefore, as he was riſen from the table, he went privily to her, and told her that he would give her 1000 crowns upon condition ſhe would grant to lay with him but one night. The gentlewoman, being a faithful wife, would not conſent thereto; but preſently told the offer of Andolocia unto her huſband, who ſaid unto her—

'A thouſand crowns would do us a great pleaſure, and were ſoon earned; however, honeſty paſſeth riches—and the infamy that thereby to us both may enſue, cannot be taken away with money; notwithſtanding, we may ſo order the matter as to have moſt part of the money without the diſdaining of your own body, by this policy—You know we have a fair and well proportioned neighbour, who refuſeth not any clean man's bed for money; to her you may promiſe 100 crowns to lie with Andolocia in your ſtead, and the reſt we may reſerve unto ourſelves: I need no farther to inſtruct you, for a woman, I truſt,

is not wanting on such an occasion as the present one.'

The gentlewoman liked this advice well, and immediately went to her neighbour, saying—'A fair and lusty young gentleman, a stranger, offered unto me 200 crowns if I would lie with him one night; and as my husband loveth me well, I dare not, lest it cost my life; therefore, if thou darest venture in my stead, I will bring to pass that thou shalt lie with him in my chamber, in my own bed, and will give thee, for thy part, an hundred crowns. To which the woman replied, 'I would not stick to lay with such a one for pleasure only; but if I do this at your request, you will perhaps send me away with a crown or two, and keep the 100 crowns yourself.' The gentlewoman said—'Thou shalt have that I promised thee beforehand. Then was the wench pleased, and bidding her to prepare all things accordingly, promised to be ready to accomplish her will. The gentlewoman had declared to her husband how she had appointed the matter with her neighbour, whereof he was glad.

Andolocia not being satisfied, repaired again to the gentlewoman, and was importunate to obtain his suit; to whom the gentlewoman said—'Sir, since you will not be otherwise answered, if you will perform your promise concerning the 1000 crowns, come to-morrow night unto my house, and bring the money with you, for my husband will be then abroad about the king's business.' Andolocia with this answer was glad, and next night came alone to the gentlewoman's house, and brought with him the 1000 crowns.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXVII.

How Andolocia *was deceived by a Gentlewoman, who layed another Woman in Bed with him in her Place.*

THE gentlewoman gave him very friendly entertainment, and receiving the money of him untold, brought him into her chamber, bidding him to go to bed, and she would come to him.

Then sent she hastily for her kind neighbour, to whom she gave 100 crowns, and sent her to bed to Andolocia, where he solaced himself with her, supposing he had lain with his companion's wife; now when the wench perceived that Andolocia was sufficiently delighted, she told him the whole story.

Andolocia, hearing that he was so deceived, was very angry, not so much for the loss of the money, but rather for shame that it should be blazed abroad to his reproach, how he was deluded by two women. Wherefore he rose up, and gave his bed-fellow 100 crowns, bidding her that after his departure, she should challenge 900 more, which the gentlewoman wrongfully detained, and that she herself had duly earned; which the wench performed with such impudent and open contention, that the gentlewoman, for all her pretended modesty, got noted for a bawd and sustained great shame; but Andolocia presently went to his lodging, and called up his men, bidding them prepare all things ready, for he would directly depart.

When he was gone 10 or 12 miles from Paris, he began to be merry, and rode unto the King of Arragon's court, from thence to the king of Castile, then to the King of Portugal, and next to the King

of Spain's court, where he behaved himself so well that he was handsomely entertained.

He daily practised all feats of chivalry, and often gave jewels, for which gentlemen should contend in martial games, and invited the ladies and gentlewomen to many costly banquettings. Moreover, when there was any pressing for soldiers, he would set forth an hundred men at his own charges, and cloath them, whereby he was held in great favour with the king. And as he was valiant and courageous, he would commonly be in the front of the battle, and the king dubbed him knight. Insomuch that there was in the court an old earl who had an only daughter, who was his heir, to her would the king have married Andolocia, promising him also the earldom after her father's decease; but Andolocia liked not the earl's daughter, neither regarded he the earldom, for he was rich enough by virtue of his purse.

When Andolocia had served the King of Spain some years he requested leave to depart; the king granted his request, and told him, that when his pleasure was to repair to Spain again, he should always find in him a friend, for his faithful service. Then Andolocia bought a ship, wherein he and his men sailed into England.

When he came to London, where the king kept his court, he hired a house, and bought all necessary furniture for it. There he kept an open court, with liberal hospitality, like as if he had been a prince, duly feasting the nobility and courtiers, to whom he gave many gifts, and used to just, and practise other martial games with them; but in all feats of chivalry, both men and women gave Andolocia the praise.

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When the king underſtood of his noble behaviour, he demanded he would ſtay at his court; he anſwered, he would moſt willingly beſtow his body and goods to his ſervice. At this time there were wars between England and Scotland; and Andolocia led a band of men againſt the Scots at his own charge, where he behaved himſelf ſo courageouſly in the battle, that though he was a ſtranger, yet, for his amazing exploits, he was commended above all others.

When the victory was obtained over the Scots, Andolocia returned to London, where he was received of the king and queen very honourably, and highly eſteemed by every one.

CHAP. XXVIII.

How the King had Andolocia *to Dinner, where he fell in Love with* Agrippina, *the King's Daughter.*

THEN the king ordained a great dinner, and invited thereto Andolocia, and all the other captains; where were alſo preſent the queen and her fair daughter Agrippina, who ſurpaſſed in beauty all the women in England; whom when Andolocia ſteadfaſtly beheld he was greatly in love with.

When the feaſt was done, and he was retired to his houſe, he thought how he might win the favour of Agrippina, wiſhing he was of royal blood, that he might be eſteemed worthy to marry her; howbeit he encouraged himſelf with hope to purchaſe her good will; therefore he advanced himſelf in juſting and other martial excerciſes before the queen and her

her daughter very often, in more gorgeous manner than he was wont, wherewith he moſt delighted the ladies. And when he thought convenient, he invited the queen and her daughter, with many ladies of the court, to dinner, which was ſumptuouſly adorned, that it was wonderful to behold ſuch in a ſubject's houſe.

Whereof the king was informed, inſomuch that when Andolocia came unto the court, the king ſaid unto him, 'I underſtood by the queen that ſhe hath been very well and ſumptuouſly entertained at your houſe; Why had not I warning thereof alſo?'

Andolocia ſaid, 'Moſt gracious lord, if your majeſty would not diſdain to honour me with your preſence, how acceptable ſhould it be unto me!'—Then ſaid the king, I will alſo come to-morrow unto you, and bring ten more of my counſel with me.'

Of this was Andolocia glad, and haſted home to prepare all things accordingly; the next day came the king and the lords to dinner, where all things were ſo magnificently accompliſhed on ſo ſhort notice, that the king and them that came with him greatly marvelled. Then thought the king, 'It were good to abate the pride of Andolocia, and to make him aſhamed;' wherefore he appointed the next day alſo to take his recreation with Andolocia again, and forthwith ſent command, that no wood-ſeller ſhould, upon pain of his diſpleaſure, ſell or give one ſtick of wood, or any kind of fuel unto Andolocia, or any of his retinue, during the ſpace of two days. Andolocia was glad the king would come, and prepared all kinds of the moſt delicate victuals that were to be had for money; but when he could by no means get any wood or other fuel, he was ſore afraid leſt he ſhould be utterly aſhamed,

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not knowing how the cooks ſhould dreſs the meat; but when he ſaw no other remedy, he ſent ſpeedily to the merchants' ſhips, and to all the grocers in London, to buy a large quantity of canes, cloves, nutmegs, liquorice, ginger, and cinnamon, which were uſed in the chimneys and ovens to burn, inſtead of wood, to dreſs the meat.

About dinner-time, though the king ſuppoſed that Andolocia's kitchen was but ſimply provided for want of fire, yet would he and certain lords, who were with him before, ride unto Andolocia's houſe, where they ſmelt ſuch an exceeding ſtrong and ſweet ſavour, that they muſed whereof it ſhould be. The king then demanded if dinner was ready; it was anſwered, that all was prepared, and that with ſweet ſpices inſtead of fuel; whereat the king and all the lords greatly marvelled.

When dinner was done, and the king's train came to fetch him home, he gave each of his guard ten crowns; and ſo returned the king with his lords home again, thanking Andolocia for their ſumptuous entertainment.

When the king came unto the court he recounted unto the queen what a coſtly dinner they had, and that all the meat was dreſſed with pure ſpices inſtead of wood, and that he had given each of the guard ten crowns; 'Wherefore,' ſaid the king, 'I greatly muſe, and long to underſtand from whence and how he hath ſuch exceeding ſtore of money; for he ſpared no coſt, and is every day more ſumptuous and coſtly.

Then the queen ſaid, 'I know none that I ſuppoſe could ſooner or better underſtand his ſecret in that behalf, than our daughter Agrippina.' Then the king told the queen to do her diligence, and uſe her diſcretion with her daughter, to put this device

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in practice. Then went the queen unto her daughter, and told her in ſecret of the ſumptuous and rich port that Andolocia maintained, 'Whereat,' ſaid ſhe, I and the king greatly marvel. And I would have you, when he cometh next in your company, to try whether you can underſtand of him whence he getteth ſuch abundance of goods.'

Agrippina promiſed to do her utmoſt endeavour in that behalf.

CHAP. XXIX.

How Agrippina, *with feigned Love, deceived* Andolocia *of his Purſe.*

WHEN Andolocia came to court, the matter was ſo handled, that he was appointed to have ſecret communion with Agrippina; ſo when they were thus all alone, Agrippina ſaid, 'Sir, there goeth a report of your magnificence, and your entertaining the king with coſtly banquets, giving large gifts to the guards; I pray you, tell me, do you not fear leſt your money will at length fail?'—He anſwered, ſaying—'Gracious lady, I cannot want money as long as I live.'

Then ſaid ſhe—'Belike your father was very puiſſant, that he hath left you ſo rich.' Andolocia ſaid unto her—'I am as rich as my father, neither was he richer than I am now; howbeit he was otherwiſe inclined than I am; for his delight was to ſee ſtrange countries, but my greateſt pleaſure is to obtain the love of fair women and ladies.' Then ſaid Agrippina, 'I have been certified that you have been in many king's courts, did you never find any there that you liked?'

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Andolocia anſwered—'I have been in ſix king's courts, where I have ſeen many agreeable ladies; but, without flattery be it ſpoken, you paſs all I ever ſaw; you have ſo raviſhed my heart with love, that my doubtful paſſion, engendered between hope and deſpair, enforceth me to crave a ſalve for my ſore; and although I am deſcended of no principal progeny, yet my love, which hath only reſpect of perſonal liking, be requited with love again on your behalf.'

Then ſaid Agrippina, 'Tell me the truth, Andolocia, from whence thou haſt ſo much money and riches, and then I'll live in thy love, and yield to thy requeſt.'

Andolocia was now glad, and not remembering that he had not long before vowed to beware of women's unfaithfulneſs, ſaid—

'My moſt dearly beloved Agrippina, I will fulfil your deſire, on condition you will keep all things ſecret, and perform your promiſe.' She ſaid—— 'Right well beloved Andolocia, doubt not you of my fidelity, for what I promiſe you in word, ſhall be ſurely performed in deed.' Upon theſe words Andolocia ordered her to hold up her lap, and told 1000 crowns out of his virtuous purſe, ſaying—— 'This do I give you; and can, without any hinderance, afford you as much as you will have more; for ſo long as I have this purſe do I not want money; and now you may believe me that I have uttered the truth of that you longed to know.' She anſwered—'I ſee and acknowledge this to be ſo manifeſt, that I need no more to wonder at your ſumptuous expences. Wherefore, my beloved Andolocia, foraſmuch as the king hath appointed to ſleep with the queen this night, I will procure with my chamberlain that you ſhall lie with me; for without her conſent

ſent we cannot bring it to paſs; therefore you muſt reward her largely, that ſhe may conſent and be ſecret.' Andolocia, thanking her, promiſed ſo to do, and not to fail of his coming at night unto her chamber.'

As ſoon as Andolocia was gone, Agrippina went to the queen, and ſhewed her with great joy how ſhe had gotten knowledge of Andolocia whence he had his abundant wealth, and that ſhe had promiſed him to lie with him that night. The queen thereof was glad, and ſaid to her, 'If you can well remember the faſhion, the colour, and the ſize of the purſe, it were expedient that the like in all points were preſently made, which they cauſed to be done with all ſpeed, and made it dirty to make it ſeem old. The queen alſo cauſed her phyſicians to make a ſtrong potion which ſhould ſuddenly caſt one into a deep ſleep.

Theſe juggling tools being thus provided in Agrippina's chamber, to ſhew unto Andolocia a caſt of legerdemain, they informed the chamberlain, that at night when Andolocia came, ſhe ſhould receive him courteouſly into the chamber, and that when Agrippina and he ſat together at the banquet, ſhe ſhould put the potion into Andolocia's cup. Andolocia coming to the chamber at the hour appointed, and was friendly entertained by the old gentlewoman of the chamber; and ſoon after came Agrippina, who bad him welcome, ſat down by him, and offered him much friendly communication; whilſt they recreated themſelves with many delicious junkets and pleaſant wines, Agrippina drank unto him, ſaying—'I drink to thee this bowl of ſack, more than I commonly do, in token of my love, requeſting you to pledge me as much for my ſake.' The chamberlain filling the goblet with the potion, (having the

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reliſh of delicate ſack) gave it unto Andolocia, and he drank it with a chearful heart; whereupon he fell into a profound ſleep. Agrippina boldly ſtepped unto him, opened his doublet, cut off his purſe, and ſewed another inſtead thereof. Then ſhe carried the purſe unto the queen, and putting her hand into it, to try whether it was the right purſe, ſhe pulled out three handsful of gold, which the queen brought in her lap to the king, and told him how luckily the matter was conveyed, Andolocia being left in a dead ſleep. The king thereat exceedingly rejoiced, and requeſted to have the purſe to his own cuſtody, leſt Agrippina ſhould come in danger thereby. But ſhe alledging the danger that ſhe adventured in getting it, if he had ſuddenly awaked, requeſted earneſtly of her father, that ſhe might have the keeping of it for her labour; affirming that both the king and queen, notwithſtanding, might have as great advantage by it as ſhe herſelf; wherewith they were content.

When Andolocia awoke, and ſaw none by him but the old chamber-maid, and perceived that he had ſlept all night in the chair, he muſed greatly, and aſked what was become of Agrippina; the old gentlewoman ſaid, 'The queen ſent for her, and ſhe is riſen; but, ſir, I marvel much how you could ſleep ſo much out of meaſure, for I often ſtrove to awake you, but all your ſenſes were ſo benumbed, that if I had not perceived you to breathe, I ſhould have loſt your paſtime with Agrippina.'

When Andolocia underſtood that by drowſy ſleeping he was fruſtrated of his purpoſe, he began to ſwear; the old gentlewoman tried to pacify his anger, ſaying, 'Sir, I pray let reaſon rule your paſſion, and be contented; for, what you have now let paſs, may hereafter be obtained at a like opportunity.

Andolocia ſaid again ravingly, 'A miſchief light on thee, thou old bawd, why did you ſuffer me to ſleep ſo long? For I never ſlept ſo faſt but being lightly touched, I preſently awake.' But ſhe ſtill affirmed, and anſwered with fair words, ſo that in the end ſhe brought him out of Agrippina's chamber. Andolocia then went home to his houſe very ſad; but he did not know, as yet, that he had loſt his fortunate purſe.

The king being diſpoſed to try how he would behave himſelf after the loſs of his purſe, and whether he had any more of them, ſent word to Andolocia, that he would dine with him again the next day.—Andolocia being certified thereof, called the ſteward, and willed him to prepare a coſtly dinner, for that the king would be there on the next morning: the ſteward ſaid that he had diſburſed much money of late, and had not ſufficient ſtore to ſerve the turn. Then Andolocia took the purſe, and would have delivered him 500 crowns, but when he groped about after his accuſtomed manner, and brought nothing forth, he turned his purſe inſide out, and felt it thoroughly, but there was no money to be found; then was he in great perplexity.

He then called all his men before him, and ſaid unto them—'I have been your maſter theſe ten years, wherein I have ſo entertained you, that you wanted nothing; neither am I debtor to any of you, for you are all paid before hand. The time is now come that I can no longer maintain ſuch a ſtately port as I have done; therefore I muſt deſire you all to provide for yourſelves as well as you can, for I have no more money left than 150 crowns, whereof I will ſpare to each of you ten ſhillings, and will freely give to every man his horſe.

Theſe words made all the men aſtoniſhed, looking on one another, marvelled what ſudden miſchance was happened unto their maſter. Whereupon one that was, of all the reſt, moſt loving and truſty to Andolocia, ſaid, 'Sir, if any man have done you diſpleaſure, or betrayed you, let us underſtand, and we will be revenged on him, though it were the king himſelf, and we were ſure of loſing our lives.' Andolocia anſwered, that on his behalf ſhould no man hazard his life. Then ſaid they, 'We are loath to leave you in your miſery; and we had rather ſell our horſes, and all that we have, to remain with you.' Andolocia ſaid—'I thank you for your faithful goodwill, my beloved ſervants, if ever Fortune ſmile on me again, I will requite your courteſy; but now do as I have ſaid, and ſaddle my horſe forthwith.'

The ſervants could not refrain from tears to ſee the ſudden calamity of their maſter, with whom they had lived ſo pleaſantly—they then brought Andolocia his horſe; then taking leave of them all, he departed with an heavy heart, and travelled towards Famagoſta.

CHAP. XXX.

How Andolocia *returned to* Cyprus, *and complained to his Brother of the Loſs of his Purſe.*

WHEN Andolocia was now come near unto the fair palace, Ampedo eſpied him from the top of a tower, whereof he was exceeding glad, hoping to enjoy the purſe again, and that he ſhould have no occaſion to ſpare, as he had done theſe ten years.—

Then came he to meet his brother, who received him joyfully, asking him why he came alone, and where his men were. He answered—'I left them all, and thank God that I am come safe home.' Ampedo said—'I pray you, brother, shew me what misfortune hath befallen you.' Andolocia said, 'Let us first dine, and then you shall understand the truth of all matters.'

When dinner was done they went together into a chamber, where Andolocia said unto Ampedo, with an heavy countenance—'Dear brother, shame will scarce let my faultering tongue utter what has happened on our behalf; for our fortunate purse is taken from me, for sorrow whereof my heart is ready to break.'

Ampedo being with these heavy tidings astonished, said—'Is it taken from thee by violence, or hast thou lost it by negligence?' He answered—'I have most shamefully transgressed our father's commands, and disclosed the secrets of it to a lover of mine, who beguiled me when I least mistrusted.' Ampedo said—'If we had observed our father's will, our jewels had not been separated; but you would needs adventure to work our mischief.'

Andolocia said—'Dear brother, it doth so sorely grieve me, that I fear it will cost me my life.'

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXI.

How Andolocia *beguiled his Brother of the Hat, and conveyed himſelf to* England *therewith, and carried away* Agrippina *with the Purſe.*

BUT when Ampedo ſaw that his brother took the matter ſo heavily, he comforted him, ſaying, Let not ſorrow come ſo near thy heart, we have yet two cheſts full of ducats, and the wiſhing hat, whereof we will write to the ſoldan, who, if needs, will give us ſufficient to maintain us during life, though we had no more; and let the purſe go with all ill luck and miſchief with it.'

Then ſaid Andolocia, 'But goods and money are ſubject to many caſualties; wherefore I beſeech you, good brother, grant to lend me your wiſhing hat, and I truſt therewith to get the purſe again.'—Ampedo ſaid, 'It is a common proverb, Whoſo loſeth his goods loſeth his wits—which appeareth by thee, who, now thou haſt deprived us of the greateſt treaſure; now I will be wiſer than to ſuffer thee to carry away the hat alſo, for I think you might be content to make your paſtime with it when you pleaſe.'

When Andolocia perceived that his brother would not in any caſe grant that he ſhould carry the hat from him, he thought by policy to deceive him of it, and ſaid, 'Dear brother, if I have requeſted that you think inconvenient, I will be contented henceforth to be ruled by you.'

Soon after, as his brother's men were gone forth to hunt, he requeſted the hat to convey himſelf to them: his brother, not miſtruſting him of any deceit, delivered it to him; but when he got it he came

neither to the wood, nor the men, but wiſhed himſelf at Genoa. When Ampedo ſaw that his brother had thus deceived him, he took it patiently, and hoped that he would ſoon return with the purſe. Andolocia being now at Genoa, willed that the choiceſt jewels that were to be had ſhould be brought to his lodging; which, when they were ſhewn him and agreed on the price, he put them into a caſket, and raiſed them with his hand, as though he would try whether he might eaſily carry them, and wiſhed himſelf away without payment. The like did he at Venice and Florence, and at laſt, with all the jewels, conveyed himſelf to London in England; ſo that the jewellers, whom he had deceived, thought verily, ſome incarnate ſpirit had beguiled them. Then he went to the court, apparelled like a merchant, and got licenſe to diſplay his jewels upon a table, as Agrippina with her train of ladies ſhould come from the chapel, whom he well knew, but they knew not him, for he had diſfigured his beard and the colour of his face.

But when Agrippina was paſſed by, he gave two rings unto the chief gentlewomen that attended in the chamber, and requeſted them that he might come to their lady's preſence; ſaying he would ſhew her ſuch jewels as her grace never ſaw before. They promiſed ſo to do, and preſently ſhewed the rings to Agrippina, which they ſaid the merchant had given them to the intent that they ſhould procure that he might come before her, and ſell unto her grace ſome of the beſt jewels, for he had many which were very fair and coſtly.

Agrippina ſaid, 'I believe that he hath exceeding rich jewels, for that he would not ſtick freely to give ſuch fair rings, therefore I long to ſee his jewels.'

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When he had laid forth the jewels before Agrippina, ſhe liked them well, and cheapened thoſe that ſhe fancied, whereof ſome where worth 1000 crowns, for which ſhe offered not half the money. Andolocia ſaid, 'Gracious lady, I have been informed that you are the richeſt princeſs in the world, which made me ſeek the moſt coſtly jewels that are to be found to bring unto your noble grace, for which I have ſuſtained painful travel, and great danger; therefore I truſt your grace would not wiſh I ſhould be ſo much a loſer by them, as to ſell them for leſs than they coſt me; but if it pleaſe your grace to chuſe and lay out thoſe that you beſt like, they ſhall be yours for as eaſy price as I can afford them to you.'

Then did Agrippina chuſe out ten jewels, whereof the price amounted to 5000 crowns; but ſhe would in no wiſe give ſo much. Andolocia hoping ſhe would bring the purſe, was contented to agree for 4000 crowns; ſo Agrippina took the jewels, and went unto her chamber, where ſhe took the purſe out of the coffer, and knitted it carefully to her girdle, and came forth to pay the merchant; as ſhe came near him, telling out the money, he claſped her in his arms, and wiſhed that he was in ſome wild deſart with her. With that they were carried through the air in a ſhort time, in an iſle that bordereth upon Ireland, and were ſet there under an apple tree full of fruit.

As Agrippina was thus ſuddenly under the tree, having the jewels in her lap, and the purſe at her girdle, ſhe ſaid to the merchant, 'Lord, for thy mercy, where are we now, or how came we hither? I am exceeding faint and hot, therefore pray reach me ſome of thoſe apples to refreſh me.'

He

He poured the jewels that he had left into her lap, and put the hat upon her head to ſhadow her from the parching heat of the ſun, leſt it ſhould trouble him in climbing; and as he was on the top of the tree, looking for the faireſt apples, ſhe ſitting heavily under, began to ſay, 'Would God I were in my chamber again. With that ſhe ſoon was in her chamber. The king. the queen, and the courtiers aſked where ſhe had been, and what was become of the merchant that carried her away; ſhe ſaid—'God bleſs me from ſuch merchants; I ſuppoſe it was the devil, or ſome of his angels; howbeit I left him upon the top of a tree; but, I pray you, trouble me with no more queſtions, for I am exceeding faint and weary, and muſt reſt awhile.

CHAP. XXXIII.

How Andolocia, *by eating two Apples, had two Horns grow on his Head.*

WHEN Andolocia, ſitting on the tree, ſaw that Agrippina was gone with the hat, and all his jewels, he bitterly curſed the tree, the fruit, and he that planted it, ſaying—'Curſed be the hour in which I was born, and the days and hours that I have lived.' As Andolocia went wandering thus to and fro, the night came on, that he could go no farther; ſo he ſat him down to reſt, but could not ſleep for fear, neither thought otherwiſe but to die in the wilderneſs. Thus he lay all night as a deſperate man, deſirous rather to die than live. When it was day, he aroſe and walked every way, but he could not hear or ſee any man; and being very hungry,

gry, came at laſt unto a tree, whereon grew fair red apples, whereof as ſoon as he had eaten a couple, there ſprang up out of his head two horns, like as it were of a goat, which he could by no means get off.

CHAP. XXXIII.

How an Hermit helped Andolocia *to be rid of his Horns.*

IT chanced that an old hermit, who had been thirty years in that deſart, and had never ſeen any man, heard his pitiful lamentation, and going to him ſaid—'Alas! poor man, who brought the thither, for what ſeekeſt thou in this deſart?'

Andolocia ſaid, 'Good father, God be thanked that hath ſent thee hither, ſomewhat to my comfort; verily againſt my will do I here remain.' Then he aſked the hermit for ſome meat, who brought him to his hermitage, where was neither meat, bread, nor wine, but only fruits and water, whereb he lived. Andolocia therefore took a ſmall refreſhment, and then aſked if he could ſhew him by any means how to get his horns away.

The hermit bid Andolocia follow him, going thro' a little path from his hermitage, and there plucked down two apples from another tree, and bid Andolocia eat them; which when he had done, his horns were vaniſhed away; Andolocia thereof was exceeding glad, and demanded of the hermit how it came to paſs that he had ſo ſoon gotten horns, and ſo ſoon rid of them again. The hermit ſaid, 'The creator of all things hath given this ſecret nature to

theſe two trees, neither be there their like on earth, but in this deſart only.' Then Andolocia deſired to take ſome of theſe apples with him. The hermit willed him to take as many as he liſted; 'But,' ſaid he, 'I perceive thy mind is greatly troubled with tranſitory things; and it were far better to content thee with a competent life, than to bring thy ſoul in danger for a ſmall pleaſure.'

But theſe perſuaſions could not now ſink very deep in Andolocia's heart, who was now again wholly bent to recover his purſe and hat, and to be revenged on Agrippina; wherefore he got as many apples as he might conveniently carry, of both ſorts, and requeſted the hermit to ſhew him the way to ſome town. The hermit brought him to a way lying towards a town; wherefore he greatly thanked him, and ſo departed, and came unto the town, where with good meat and drink he refreſhed himſelf; from thence he went to a ſea-port town, where he found ſhips that were ſetting forth toward London, with whom he departed.

As ſoon as he was come to London, he cloſed up one of his eyes, and disfigured his face, went to the court; and when he knew Agrippina ſhould paſs, he laid abroad his apples very handſomely upon a fine cloth, and wrapped them in ſarſenet, whereby they ſhould ſeem more valuable, and called them apples of Damaſco. When many people required the price of them, he held them at three crowns every apple; ſo that none would buy of them, whereof he was glad, not meaning to ſell one of them, but only to Agrippina.

At laſt when Agrippina with her ladies paſſed by, he aſked, if it would pleaſe her grace to buy precious apples of Damaſco. Agrippina aſked the price of them. He ſaid, 'Three crowns.' Then aſked ſhe what

what virtue there was in them more than others, to be ſo dear! Andolocia anſwered that they would cauſe beauty, and make ſharp wit in thoſe that ſhould eat of them. Agrippina then willed one of her gentlewomen to buy two of them. Andolocia then, having accompliſhed his purpoſe, put up his wares, and conveyed himſelf ſpeedily away.

As ſoon as Agrippina came to her chamber, ſhe eat her two apples, and preſently two great horns ſprang out of her head, with great pain, ſo that ſhe laid her down to bed. When the horns were fully grown out, and her pain gone, ſhe felt, and beheld in a glaſs, two great horns. Then called ſhe two of her ladies, who were affrighted at that ſtrange ſight; and ſhe was ſo much aſtoniſhed, that ſhe could not ſpeak for a while.

Then they privily got a ſaw and ſawed them off hard by the head, which ſhe patiently endured; but they preſently ſprang up again, whereat ſhe was greatly diſmayed, and pitifully lamented.

The old chamberlain went with ſpeed to all the beſt phyſicians, and told them, that whereas one of her kindred had two great horns grown out of her head, ſhe would know whether they could by phyſic be taken away or not.

The phyſicians hearing of this ſtrange infirmity, were all deſirous of ſeeing the party; but there was none that would undertake to remove the growing of thoſe horns, for they had never ſeen, heard, or read of the like. When the gentlewoman thought that no remedy would be had, ſhe turned to go home with a heavy heart.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXIV.

How Andolocia *counterfeited a Phyſician, and cured the King's Daughter of her Horns, whereby he recovered his Wiſhing Hat and Purſe.*

AS ſhe was coming towards the court ſhe met with Andolocia, who being apparelled like a phyſician, ſaid unto her, 'I perceive that you have

been with ſundry phyſicians in my ſight, I pray you, ſhew me, have you ſped of your purpoſe? Be not diſpleaſed that I am ſo bold to aſk you this queſtion, for I am a phyſician alſo; and it muſt be a ſtrange diſeaſe

diſeaſe that I will not, with God's help, cure and take from you.'

The gentlewoman ſuppoſing that God had ſent this phyſician who offered himſelf ſo luckily, ſaid—'There is a marvellous impediment chanced to a noble gentlewoman, out of whoſe head are grown two horns of a goat; which if you can take away that they ſhall ſpring no more, you ſhall be richly rewarded, for ſhe hath money at will.' Andolocia ſmiling, courteouſly ſaid—'If that be the worſt, I have the ſcience to rid her of her horns without any pain or ſmart; I know alſo the cauſe whereof they came.' She earneſtly requeſted him to declare the occaſion of that ſtrange diſeaſe. He ſaid—'She hath profeſſed love, and hath inwardly rejoiced at wickedneſs done to her friend, which joy ſhe durſt not openly utter; howbeit, whereas it muſt needs, in ſome part of the body have an iſſue, it is leaſt dangerous when it breaketh out upwards; for if it was not to be expelled, it would ſo oppreſs the heart, that death would ſhortly after enſue.'

When the chamberlain had now great hope of his cunning, ſhe aſked where he lodged, ſaying ſhe would preſently come again to him; he ſaid—'I am lodged hard by here at the Swan, there may you enquire for me: I am called the doctor with the great noſe, although I have another name, yet am I beſt known thereby becauſe I am a ſtranger.'

Then went ſhe joyfully unto the ſorrowful princeſs, and ſaid—'Gracious lady, pluck up a merry heart, and be of good cheer, you ſhall be ſhortly rid of your horns;' ſhewing unto her how when moſt of the London phyſicians had ſent her away comfortleſs, ſhe met by chance with a ſtrange doctor who made light of the matter, 'and did warrant me to help your grief. Moreover he told me the cauſe

whereof they ſprung, which your grace doth well know.'

Then ſaid Agrippina, 'Why did you not bring him with you, ſeeing you know how earneſtly I deſire to be cured? Go, fetch him hither, and deſire him to bring all things neceſſary for the purpoſe.—Take alſo with you to give him 100 crowns, and if he demand more give him as much as he requireth.' The gentlewoman went to the phyſician and gave him the 100 crowns, ſaying, 'I pray you now be diligent, and to the patient that I ſhall bring you muſt you come only by night, neither muſt you diſcloſe the matter to any perſon; for her own father and mother as yet know not of it.' The phyſician ſaid, 'Doubt not you of my ſecreſy; but before I go with you I muſt buy at the apothecary's ſuch things as be requiſite; in the mean time you may ſtay here, or come again two hours hence.' She ſaid, 'I will tarry for you, for I dare not go home without you.'

Then Andolocia went to the apothecary's, and bought a quantity of rhubarb, ſugar, and roſe-water, and therein ſoaked and rolled one of his apples, being cut in little pieces; he alſo bought a box of ſweet odours and perfumes to delight her ſenſes withal, and then came again to the gentlewoman, and ſhe conveyed him by night to Agrippina; to whom he ſaid, 'Let your grace be of good comfort, and doubt not but by God's help and my ſcience, you ſhall ſoon be cured of your diſeaſe; therefore prepare you that I may ſee and feel the cauſe of your grief.'

Agrippina, though ſhe was greatly aſhamed to ſhew her horns, ſat up in her her bed; the phyſician viewed and handled the horns, ſaying, 'You muſt have upon each horn a piece of rough ape's ſkin, taken

taken warm from the ape; and with this confection will I anoint them alſo.' There was an old ape in the court, which was preſently ſlain, and the ſkin was ſtripped off, with which was made two caſes, as Andolocia had commanded: then did he anoint the horns and her temples with ape's greaſe, and his ſweet confection, and put on the caſes of the ſkin, and ſaid to her, 'This is to ſoften and mollify the horns; but they muſt be drawn away by purging, for which you ſhall ſwallow theſe ſmall pills and reſt thereupon, whereby you may perceive a ſpeedy amendment.'

Agrippina received the purgation, which was the apple to drive away horns, cut in ſmall pieces, and mingled with rhubarb. Andolocia withdrawing himſelf a little aſide, the rhubarb began to work with his patient, ſo that ſhe went twice or thrice to the ſtool. After a while came in the doctor, and ſaid —'Let us ſee if the phyſic hath done any good;'— and therewith he pulled off the ſkins, and the horns were almoſt diminiſhed, whereof he was exceeding glad.

Then he departed, and ſaid he ſhould go unto the apothecary again, and that the next night he ſhould finiſh the cure. When he had tempered the other apple with ſugar and ſpice of another ſort, he came the next night unto her again, and dreſſed her as he had done before, but gave her not ſo much of the apple, becauſe ſhe ſhould not be thoroughly cured before he had talked with her, and had ſome likelihood to bring his purpoſe to paſs; wherefore as he ſat by her, ſhe being aſleep, he thought with himſelf—'Two or three thouſand crowns were a ſufficient reward if another had done this cure, but it is nothing comparable to the miſchief ſhe has done unto me; therefore, before I take away the horns, I

will let her underſtand my mind, to the which if ſhe will not conſent, when ſhe thinks to be rid of her horns, I will cauſe them to grow as long as they were before, and then I will go into Flanders, and from thence ſend her word, that if ſhe will have remedy, ſhe ſhall come unto me, and bring with her the wiſhing hat and purſe.'

As he was thus deviſing, the gentlewoman came in with a candle to ſee Agrippina, who was aſleep.

CHAP. XXXV.

How Andolocia, *by Chance, found his Wiſhing Hat.*

IT chanced that Andolocia's cap fell from his head, and when he ſtooped to take it up again he eſpied his wiſhing hat lying under the bed on the ground, which none regarded, for they knew not the virtue of it, neither knew the princeſs. The phyſician then ſent the gentlewoman for ſome conduit water, and in the mean time he took his hat up from under the bed, and held it privily under his gown.

By this time was Agrippina awaked; then took he the ſkin from her brow, to ſee how much the horns were ſunk, which were now become very ſlender, and ſcarce an hand-breadth long, whereof Agrippina was very glad; and Andolocia in courteous manner ſaid unto her, 'Gracious lady, you ſee that your malady is now well diminiſhed, the chief care that reſteth behind is to drive the root of the horn out of the ſkull, to which muſt be uſed coſtly medicines, which if I cannot find in this realm

I muſt

I muſt either go myſelf or ſend ſome other phyſician to fetch ſuch things, whereof I ſhall inform him, in other countries. And beſides this, I would know what certain ſum of money you will give me, when you ſhall be clean rid of your horns, and that your forehead be as ſmooth as ever it was.'

The princeſs anſwered, 'I have certainly found that your ſcience is excellent and true, therefore I beſeech you, do your beſt to help me, and ſpare no money.'

The phyſician ſaid, 'You bid me not ſpare, but I have no money whereof I can be liberal.' When he craved her liberality ſo plainly, ſhe went to her coffer, and brought out the purſe hanging at her girdle, wherein were alſo her beſt jewels; the ſame ſhe tied about her middle, and went to the window, where ſhe counted out 300 crowns. When Andolocia perceived ſhe had the purſe and jewels about her, he groped under his gown, as though he ſought for a purſe to put his money in, he caſt off his cap, ſet on his hat, and claſped Agrippina faſt round the middle, and wiſhed himſelf in a ſolitary deſart, which was preſently accompliſhed by virtue of the hat.

When Agrippina was ſuddenly gone, the gentlewoman of the chamber ran to the queen, and told her, the phyſician had carried away her daughter in ſuch ſort as the merchant had done, and declared what had chanced concerning the horns. The queen, with this heavy news was aſtoniſhed; but yet hoped that ſhe would quickly return, as ſhe had done before; but when ſhe came not again after one day and a night, ſhe was exceedingly ſorrowful, and recounted unto the king alſo, how ſtrangely all things had chanced, and how the phyſician had conveyed

her away, and said to the king, 'Let us send messengers to every coast to hear of her, lest she come to some poverty and distress.' The king said, 'It is in vain to seek her, until God restore her again; and also it were a shame for us that we have kept her no better.

When Andolocia and Agrippina were alone in the desart, he cast off the doctor's gown and long nose; whereby she perceived it was Andolocia, to whom she could not yet speak for fear, for that he looked on her with an angry and grim countenance as though he would have presently killed her; and first he drew a knife, and cutting her girdle asunder, took the purse, and fastened it to his doublet, where it was before, whereat Agrippina trembled and quaked with fear.

Then said Andolocia unto her, 'O thou faithless woman, thou art now fallen into my power, and I will requite the treason thou didst conspire against me, when thou tookest the purse from me. How could thy heart serve thee, thou perjured wight, to shew such an unkindness towards me, who committed unto thee both my secrets of body and goods, and so often adventured myself to just, and to use other feats of chivalry, only for thy sake? Now be thine own judge, whether it be reason that I take little pity on thee, as thou hast done on me.'

Agrippina, distilling many tears, lamentably said —'O virtuous and valiant knight, I confess that I have intolerably abused you; yet have some compassion on me, and consider the frailties that are natural to women, and do good for evil, as becometh a Christian.

Andolocia answered, 'But the misery and shame that I have sustained by thee, went so near my heart that I can hardly forget or forgive.'

Then

Then ſhe ſaid again, 'Yet Andolocia, for the love of God adviſe yourſelf, what diſhonour it will be for you to avenge your wrath on a poor woman, being alone with you in the deſart.' Then ſaid Andolocia, 'Well, Agrippina, though you deſerve no mercy, yet I will refrain from tyranny; and do promiſe thee, by my knighthood, that I will neither ſtain thy honour, nor hurt thy body: but thou haſt one token on thy head, which thou ſhalt carry with thee to thy grave, that thou mayeſt the better remember thy unfaithfulneſs towards me.'

Agrippina, being glad that ſhe had eſcaped violence or death, thanked him, and therewith ſaid—'Now would God my horns were away, and I was again in my father's palace.' Andolocia hearing her begin to wiſh, ſuddenly caught up the hat, which lay not far from her, and held it faſt in his hand, whereby Agrippina perceived that he greatly eſteemed the hat, and that by virtue of it ſhe was thrice conveyed, whereat ſhe was inwardly vexed that ſhe had eſteemed and kept the hat no better: but ſhe earneſtly intreated Andolocia that he would clean rid her of her horns, and convey her again to her father; but he was fully determined not to grant her requeſt.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVI.

How Andolocia *put fair* Agrippina *into a Houſe of Religion.*

WHEN Agrippina ſaw that no entreaty would prevail, ſhe ſaid—'Since I muſt needs continue thus ſhamefully disfigured, I will not covet to go any more into England, nor to ſee father or mother, or any other of my friends; but convey me, I pray you, into ſome ſtrange place, where I am unknown; and if you would place me in ſome houſe of religion, where I might keep me cloſe from all worldly affairs and company, I ſhould be greatly beholden to you.'—

Then ſaid Andolocia, 'That I will not ſtick to do for you.'

With that he bound his hat to his head, took her by the middle, and conveyed her into Ireland, near St. Patrick's purgatory, where there was a great nunnery of noble women; he, leaving her there by in the fields, went unto the abbeſs of the houſe, and told her that he had brought with him an honeſt and noble virgin, who was very beautiful, ſave that certain knobs were ſprung out of her head, whereof ſhe was ſo aſhamed, that ſhe could not abide with her friends, but requeſted to be in ſome ſolitary place where ſhe was unknown. 'Wherefore if it will pleaſe you to take her into your cloiſter, to be one of your company, I will pay her portion thrice double.'

The lady Abbeſs anſwered, ſaying, 'Every lady that is entertained in this cloiſter, muſt pay at her entrance 200 crowns, for they be every one allowed a waiting maid, and want for nothing that is conve-

convenient for them; if you will pay then the duties thrice double, bring her hither whatever she be.'

Andolocia went forthwith and brought Agrippina to the Abbess, who bid her heartily welcome; Agrippina thanked her so mannerly, and with such courteous demeanour, that the abbess well perceived she was of noble lineage, and pitied her greatly, that such a comely personage should be so disfigured with horns. Then she declared unto her the orders of the house.

Andolocia took leave of the Abbess, and said to Agrippina, 'God bless you and give you health to live quietly in this cloister.' She therewith weeping bitterly, said, 'Ere it be long, deliver me from this thraldom, for I shall have little joy to serve God, or do any thing else, until I be rid of these horns.'

These words Andolocia printed on his mind, but gave her no answer but this—'When it pleaseth the lord thou shalt have remedy;' and then departed. The sorrowful Agrippina went in with the abbess, who appointed unto her a chamber and a maid to wait on her, where she lived solitary and served God as well as she might.

When Andolocia had thus well rid himself of Agrippina, and obtained his purpose in all respects, he was a joyful man, and setting his hat on his head, wished himself from one country to another till he came to Bruges in Flanders, where he solaced himself with all manner of pastime, in the company of fair women. After that he took shipping with his men and horses, and came joyfully home to Famagosta to his brother, who received him gladly, and liked well that he came home so stately.

When

When they had dined together, Ampedo walked with his brother into the garden, and aſked him how he had ſped in all his affairs. Andolocia told him at large what happened concerning the purſe and the hat, and other adventures.

Ampedo marvelled at his ſtrange feats, and greatly rejoiced that he was now ſafe come with the purſe and the hat, both which Andolocia offered to his brother: Ampedo ſaid, 'I will not have the purſe at all, it bringeth him that hath it to ſuch care and danger, which I have heard of our father, and now hear the ſame of you.'

Andolocia of this was exceeding glad, and after he had been awhile at Famagoſta, excerciſing himſelf in martial paſtime, he rode with all his men unto the court to ſee the king, by whom he was honourably received, and demanded where and how he had ſpent his time; of which Andolocia made report at large. Then ſaid the king, 'The King of England hath a fair daughter, named Agrippina, who is the only heir to the crown, to whom I purpoſed to have married my ſon, if all parties ſhould agree; but I heard lately that ſhe was ſuddenly conveyed away, none can tell whither—Can you certify me whether ſhe be yet found or not?'

Andolocia ſaid, 'Thereof I can inform your grace. It is moſt true that he hath a daughter that is very beautiful, who by ſome conveyance of necromancy was brought into Ireland, and is there remaining in a religious houſe of gentlewomen, with whom not long ago I had ſome talk.'

The king aſked, 'May it not be brought to paſs that her father may have her again? for I am old, and would fain eſtabliſh my ſon in marriage and the realm in good order before I die.'

Ando-

Andolocia ſaid, 'To pleaſure your majeſty and your ſon I will cauſe her in a ſhort ſpace to be brought again into her father's palace.' The king required him to do it, and to ſpare no charges, promiſing to requite him well for his travel. Andolocia promiſed both the king and his ſon to do his beſt, and ſo taking his leave of them went to Famagoſta, there he borrowed the wiſhing hat of his brother, and ordering his ſteward to let his men be uſed well, ſaying he ſhould return ſhortly, went out of ſight with the hat on his head, and wiſhed himſelf in the wilderneſs where the apples were that would procure and take away horns, where he found the trees laden with apples.

Now he knew not certainly the one from the other; howbeit at all adventures he taſted of the one tree, and there preſently ſprang horns upon his head; after that he eat of the other apples, and the horns vaniſhed away; ſo he took of both ſorts with him, and from thence conveyed himſelf unto the abbey in Ireland, where he knocked, and was let in to ſpeak with the lady abbeſs, of whom he required leave to talk ſecretly with Agrippina; the abbeſs knowing him very well, called Agrippina unto him; who, when ſhe ſaw Andolocia, looked on him with a ſtrange countenance, not knowing the intent of his coming, and therefore was greatly afraid, and had ſtrange thoughts.

Andolocia taking her a little aſide, ſaid unto her, 'Lady Agrippina, tell me, if you were now rid of your horns, where would you wiſh to be?'

Agrippina ſaid—'You may well ſuppoſe that I would then long to be with the king my father and the queen my mother.'

With that he gave her an apple, and ordered her to eat it, and reſt thereupon awhile, and when ſhe did

did riſe again her horns ſhould be clean conſumed away; Agrippina did as was ordered, and when ſhe awoke they were gone.

Then called ſhe her waiting-maid to help her comb her head, which being done, ſhe came before the abbeſs, who marvelled greatly to ſee ſuch a ſudden change; and calling her ladies to behold her alſo, wondering alſo that ſhe was become ſo beautiful, and ſo clean rid of the horns, as there remained no ſign of them.

Then ſaid Andolocia, 'Agrippina is a princeſs; I muſt now take her from you, and carry her to her father and mother again, and before a month be ended ſhe ſhall be married to a young king.' Andolocia then gave unto the abbeſs and her company 100 crowns, and thanked them for their gentle entertainment and uſage of Agrippina. She herſelf alſo gave them courteous thanks; and ſo taking both their leaves they went forth into the field, where Andolocia ſetting his hat on his head, carried her to London by the king's palace, and forthwith departed to Famagoſta.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVII.

How Agrippina *was espoused to the young King of* Cyprus.

WHEN Agrippina was come unto the court, there was exceeding joy; and the king and queen ordained a solemn feast, and adorned her in the most sumptuous attire, that all might rejoice with them, for the return of their fair daughter, that they supposed to have been lost.

As the king, queen, and the nobility were in the midst of their mirth, there were tidings brought that the King of Cyprus had sent a noble embassage, to treat of a marriage between Agrippina, and the young Prince of Cyprus. The ambassadors were very honourably entertained; whereof the one was a duke, and the other two earls, with many other knights and gentlemen, who did their embassage before the king and council, and had so far thereof concluded, that they began to confer upon the dowry and the wedding day. When the queen perceived that they had almost determined of the matter, it grieved her that her daughter should be carried so far into a strange country, and to be married to one of whose demeanour and personage she was ignorant.

Then required the ambassadors that the queen might come in presence, to whom they shewed the painted portrait of the young prince, affirming with an oath, that the person whom that picture represented, was rather more amiable than the image did express, and that he was but four and twenty years of age.

ould keep

With this they were all pleaſed, and the queen took the picture and brought it to Agrippina, ſhewing it to her, and telling her that they determined to marry her unto a young king, who was more beautiful than the picture could ſhew. Agrippina remembering the word of Andolocia at the abbey, gave the more credit, and granted her conſent that what her father and the queen ſhould do in that behalf, ſhe would be content therewith.

When it was perceived that Agrippina was willing to conſent, they concluded fully of the marriage. Then were their ſhips prepared with men, victuals, artillery, and ſumptuous garments and precious jewels were put to making for Agrippina; and ſhe had aſſigned to attend on her many tall gentlemen and yeomen, many fair ladies and gentlewomen. Agrippina then took leave of her father and mother, and went on board the ſhip with all her train; and the mariners hoiſting up the ſails, they paſſed forth with a proſperous wind, until they came all together ſafe and ſound unto Famagoſta in Cyprus, where the king met her.

From thence ſhe was conveyed by land unto Meduſa, where the king had his court; thither reſorted all the nobility of the realm; and though ſhe was joyfully received at Famagoſta, yet ſhe was ten times better and more gorgeouſly received at Meduſa, by the king, queen, the young prince, and his train, to whom ſhe was married in a few days.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

How Andolocia *did best in Justing, whereby he got the Praise of the Women, but the Envy of certain Lords.*

ALL the while that the feast lasted, the lords and knights practised daily justing, and other martial exercises; and he who had quitted himself most manfully that day, at night, in time of dancing and revels, the young queen did openly set a garland on his head. But Andolocia was crowned with the garland more than any of them all; at the last it chanced on a time, Andolocia had by right deserved the garland, yet for honour sake it was given unto Earl Theodorus of England, who came over with the queen; whereof Andolocia made small account, but all the men said openly that Andolocia had better deserved it; and when this rumour came unto Theodorus's ears, it vexed him greatly, and thereby he conceived inward malice against Andolocia; whereof he formed a conspiracy with the Earl of Limose (who had a house in an isle not far from Famagosta) to put Andolocia to shame and reproach, or else to destroy him, for envy that he carried the greatly honour of nightly manhood so far from them, that no knight, lord, nor 'squire, might compare with him; wherefore they appointed at his return towards Famagosta, after the feast, to slay all his men, and carry him prisoner to Limose, out of all the king's land, where the earl had a castle, and that there they would rack him, that he should confess where his greatest treasure lay, and should by some privy token send for the most part of it, whereby they should keep

keep a ſtately port, and his pride be much abated alſo.

CHAP. XXXIX.

How Andolocia, *after the Feaſt, riding towards* Famagoſta, *was taken Priſoner by the two Earls, and all his Men ſlain.*

SO when Andolocia, after the triumph, had taken his leave, and was returning to Famagoſta, the two earls having appointed an ambuſh of men, and carried him into the Caſtle of Limoſe, where he was ſo ſtraitly kept that he in no wiſe could come out. Then promiſed he unto the keepers a great ſum of money if they would let him go free, but they durſt not do ſo, leſt that when he was at liberty he would not keep his promiſe with them; neither durſt he tell them out any great ſum of money before-hand leſt they ſhould thereby perceive the virtue of the purſe, and ſo might loſe both the purſe and his life alſo.

Soon after came tidings to the king, that Andolocia's men were ſlain, and he himſelf gone no man knew whither, neither was it known who had committed that henious murder.

The two earls after this wicked fact, rode again unto the court, and behaved themſelves as if they knew nothing thereof. When Ampedo was told what had chanced to his brother, he requeſted the king's aſſiſtance to lay privy wait throughout his dominions for Andolocia. The king anſwered, that he was as ſorry for him as himſelf; and that, on condition he could learn whether he was ſafe and alive,

alive, he would ſpare no money to look him, though it ſhould coſt him half his kingdom.

CHAP. XL.

How Ampedo *burnt the Wiſhing Hat.*

AMPEDO imagining with himſelf that his brother was come into ſome diſtreſs by occaſion of his purſe, and that by racking and torments he might be forced to confeſs of the hat alſo, whereby he might in like manner come into the like danger, in a great fury he caſt the hat into the fire, and ſtood by it till it was burnt to aſhes. And when he could by no means hear what was become of his brother, he conceived thereby ſuch an inward grief, that he fell ſick and ſhortly after died.

The king had cauſed proclamation to be made, that whoſoever could bring word whether Andolocia was dead or alive, he ſhould have 1:00 ducats in ready money, but no tidings could be heard of him. Then the Earl of Limoſe took his leave of the king, and departed home to his caſtle, where he found Andolocia in a dark dungeon. When Andolocia ſaw him he was glad, beſeeching him to be merciful to him, and to deliver him out of priſon; 'For,' ſaid he, 'I know not whoſe priſoner I am, neither for what cauſe I am thus ſtraitly penned up; if I have done wrong to any man, I will recompence him with body or goods.'

The earl ſaid—'Andolocia thou art not brought hither to be releaſed again; thou art my priſoner; and before you depart you ſhall tell me how and from whence thou haſt ſo much money, to maintain

ſuch a ſumptuous and princely port, as thou haſt ſo long time done; or elſe I will ſo torment thee that thou ſhalt be glad to ſhew it.'

When Andolocia heard thoſe cruel and threatening words, he was exceeding afraid, but ſaid on a ſudden—'My father, when he died, ſhewed me a privy which is in our houſe at Famagoſta, wherein I ſhould find more money than I was able to ſpend during my life; and if it pleaſe you to carry me as a priſoner thither, I will ſhew you the experience thereof.'

The earl would not be perſuaded that this was the truth, but took him out of the pillory and racked him grievouſly, which he awhile endured, but at the length he was ſo bitterly tormented that he might no longer refrain, but ſhewed plainly the virtue of the purſe. When the earl heard of that, he took the purſe of him, and by trial finding his ſaying to be true put him again in the pillory, and committed him to one whom he truſted.

The earl then paid his debts, ſtored his caſtle with victuals and furniture, and rode forthwith to the court. And when they had communed together concerning the purſe the earl had gotten of Andolacia by racking, there was no ſmall triumphing between them on either part. But Theodorus liked not that Andolocia was left alive; 'For,' ſaid he, I hear it reported in the court that he is a doctor in necromancy, and can fly in the air; therefore it is to be feared that he will by ſome means eſcape, whereby we may both come into danger of death.' But the earl ſaid—'He lieth ſo faſt and ſure in priſon, that I warrant you he cannot come out by any means.'

Then went they together, and took out as much money as they liſt, and were both alike deſirous to have

have the purſe; but to avoid all controverſy they agreed that one ſhould have one half year, and the other ſhould have it another; and that whoſo had the purſe ſhould not ſuffer the other to want, or remain in danger; and foraſmuch as the Earl of Limoſe was the elder, he would firſt enjoy it.

Now Theodorus could not be ſatisfied while Andolocia was alive, for fear they ſhould again loſe the purſe. Beſides that he purpoſed when he had the poſſeſſion of the purſe to go ſo far with it, that he would be ſafe both from the king and the Earl of Limoſe; and there he intreated of the earl that he might have his letters and one of his men to ſee Andolocia in priſon, which the earl granted.

Then took the Lord Theodorus leave of the king and ſaid, he would travel to ſee the pleaſant commodity of his kingdom. Then rode he ſtraight unto the priſon to Andolocia, whoſe legs were rotted with the heavy irons; but he hoped that ſince they had his purſe, they took no more regard of him, but ſuppoſed that the earl had ſent Theodorus to let him out of priſon.

CHAP.

CHAP. XLI.

How Andolocia, *when the Purse was gone, was murdered in Prison.*

BUT the Earl Theodorus said unto him, 'Tell me, Andolocia, hast thou any more such purses as thou hast given unto the Earl of Limose? If

thou hast the like bestow it on me, and I will presently let thee go free.' He answered, 'Gracious lord,

lord, so help me God, I have no more; but if I had it were at your commandment.'

Then said Theodorus, 'It is reported that thou art skilful in Necromancy, and canst fly in the air; Why dost thou not practise thy cunning to deliver thee from hence?'

He said, 'My good lord, I neither have nor ever had any pleasure in that art; but have only had my pleasure with the purse which ye have—the same will I freely give to you and the earl of Limose, before God and the world, and will never make claim to it again, if you will, for the honour of God, but only deliver me out of this prison, lest I die here miserably.'

Theodorus said, 'Canst thou now submit thyself? Why wast thou not so lowly when with such pride and presumption thou didst advance thyself before the king and queen to dishonour us all.—Where are all the fair ladies whom thou didst so well please, and which gave thee all the praise; try now if any of them can help thee. But since thou dost so sore long to be out of prison I will soon deliver thee.'

Then offered he five hundred ducats unto the keeper to strangle Andolocia, but he would not do it, saying, 'He is an honest man and very feeble, so that he must needs, ere it be long, die of himself; but I most surely will not commit such an heinous sin.'

Then said Theodorus, 'Give me a haltar, and I will strangle him.' But the keeper would not in any case help him. Then he took his girdle that was about his middle, and casting it about Andolocia's neck, with his dagger in it, and so strangled him to death, and gave the keeper a reward to convey the dead body out of sight.

When

When this cruel tyrant had finished this horrid murder, he departed again to the court, where he secretly told the Earl of Limose what he had done, saying, 'Andolocia is like to work us no more mischief, for I have killed him with my own hands, neither could I rest before I was quite sure he was dead.'

Now whereas the earl had not meddled with the purse, and the half year was expired that Theodorus's turn came to enjoy it as long, he demanded him to deliver it, and take as much spending money as he would. The Earl of Limose was well content, and went forthwith to the coffer, and brought the purse, casting it upon the table. Theodorus took it in his hand, and would have coined out some money, but there was none to be felt, neither would the purse yield any more. Then looked they one on the other, not knowing that when Ampedo and Andolocia were both dead, the purse had lost its virtue.

Then said the Earl Theodorus angrily, 'Thou false, and deceitful man, thinkest thou so fondly to deceive me, by delivering unto me this simple purse that is not worth a groat, instead of that precious purse whereof we had so much money? Fetch me, therefore, that which I now ought to have.' He answered, 'It is in good faith the same purse that I took from Andolocia; neither have I any other; but how it comes to pass that it yieldeth not as it did before, I know not.'

Theodorus would not be pacified with this answer, but was far more angry, and said he would be revenged on him whatever befel; and therewith he drew his rapier and struck at him; the Earl of Limose, having no other defence, ran within him and stopped his hand as soon as he could, whereby they made such a noise that their men being in the next cham-

chamber, broke open the door, and parted them. Howbeit the Earl of Limoſe was wounded, therefore his men laid hold of Theodorus.

When tidings came to the king, that the two earls, who were great friends, had fought together in a chamber, and one almoſt ſlain the other, he commanded both to be brought before him, to enquire into the cauſe of their debate. But Theodorus only was examined, the other being wounded that he could not come.

CHAP. XLII.

How the two Earls, by ſtriving for the Purſe, were of the Murder, and put to Death.

WHEN the king, by ſtrict examination and grievous racking, had violently forced Theodorus to confeſs how they had dealt with Andolocia, he was exceedingly grieved, and being moved with wrathful diſpleaſure againſt the murderers, without long deliberation, he gave judgment that they ſhould be bruiſed to death upon wheels; and that, if the Earl of Limoſe was ſick, he ſhould be carried to the place of execution, and if he was dead, that his carcaſe, notwithſtanding, ſhould be ſet on the wheel; which was executed on the two earls as the king had commanded.

Then ſent the king alſo certain officers to the caſtle of Limoſe, to ſeize upon all the lands and goods of the earl; and willed alſo, That as many men and women as were in the caſtle, conſenting to the murder, or that had concealed the ſame, ſhould be hanged upon the caſtle walls without any mercy.—

And

And whereas they all acknowledged that the body of Andolocia was thrown into the ditch by the castle, they caused it to be taken up, and carried to Famagusta, where it was honourably buried in the chantry-church which his father had founded, as if it had been of their near lineage. And forasmuch as neither Ampedo nor Andolocia had any heirs left behind them, the king took their palace into his own possession, wherein he found so much goods and ready coin, such sumptuous household stuff, and so precious and costly jewels, that it might rather seem the palace of some mighty emperor, rather than of a subject.

In the same palace the young king and queen held their court, until his father departed out of this life; and then began they to reign and govern the whole empire of Cyprus.

FINIS.